JOTA • WIN THE OLD LFC IN COLOUR BOOK • KEITA • SEE THE NEW BOOT ROOM MOVIE • MATIP

LIVERPOOL FC



TheFA Women's Championship

CHAMPIONS

HOW LFC WOMEN BOUNCED BACK TO THE BIG TIME

Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

liverpoolfc.com

LFC Mag May 22 £4.50

05

9 771478 304167

CONTENTS

Reach Sport
Editor David Cottrell
Assistant Editor William Hughes
Writer Chris McLoughlin
Production Editor
Michael McGuinness
Design Colin Sumpter
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea
Photography Getty Images, Alamy, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd.
Published by Reach Sport Managing Director Steve Hanrahan Commercial Director Will Beedles Executive Art Editor Rick Cooke Executive Editor Paul Dove
Marketing & Communications Manager Claire Brown
Printed by William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com
To subscribe visit www.reachsportshop.com





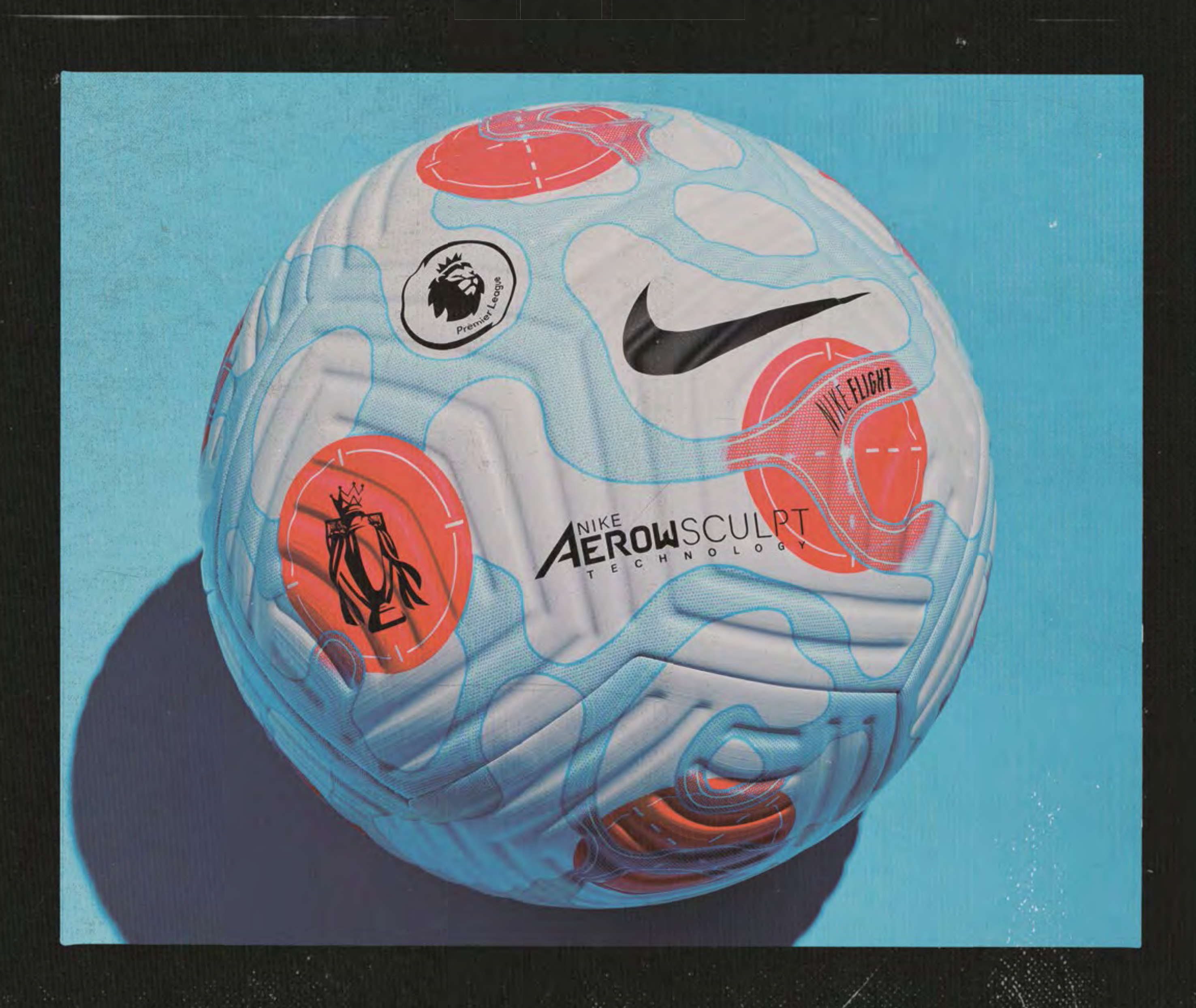
MO'S NEW MURAL

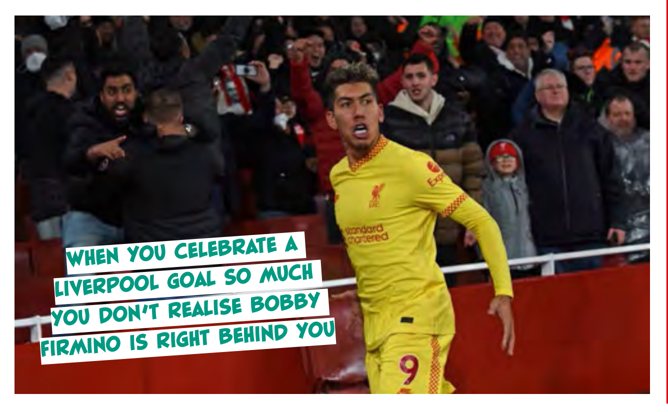
Of the current Reds first-team squad there are famous murals of captain Jordan Henderson and right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold around the streets of Anfield, but it felt high time for some local street-art celebrating the striker who's broken record after goalscoring record in LFC colours over recent years.

Introducing this stunning mural created by local artist John Culshaw on Anfield Road, opposite the King Harry pub. It features two iconic celebrations from the Egyptian's LFC career to date, and Mo was selected by fans to be the subject following a poll held by supporters group Spion Kop 1906.


NEW ONE WAY SYSTEM AHEAD
11

MEET THE NEW NIKE FLIGHT BALL





WHEN YOU CELEBRATE A LIVERPOOL GOAL SO MUCH YOU DON'T REALISE BOBBY FIRMINO IS RIGHT BEHIND YOU

CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page where you don't know what to expect...

SUPERMARKET REDS XI

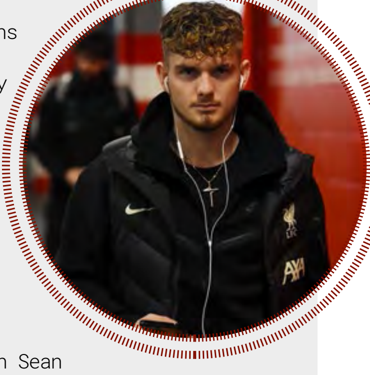
PatrICELAND Luzi
Bjorn Tore
KvFARMFOODSe
Tom CO-OPper
MamaOCADOu Sakho
MARKS&SPENCER
Lawrenson
Michael ThomASDA
ALDIdi Hamann
Johnny MORRISONSey
Fernando MorienTESCO
Ronny WAITROSEnthal
Billy LIDdeLl

JOHN ACHTERBERG REVEALS BEST OUTFIELD GOALIE •

"Aggression-wise, Milly would want to do it. He is a guy who can do everything and has the right mentality to keep the ball out of the net."

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Harvey Elliott (Chertsey, England)



One of the oldest market towns in England, Chertsey is in Surrey, about 18 miles southwest of London. It's pretty old and appears in the Domesday Book as Certesi, which sounds like an evil ruler on Game of Thrones.

Chertsey Cricket Club was regarded as one of the strongest in the 18th century and were invited to travel to France in 1789 to introduce the game to the country. Unfortunately they only got as far as Dover due to the French Revolution kicking off and it was boules rather than bowlers that became popular in Paris.

In medieval times, long before Harvey was born there in April 2003, Chertsey had a curfew bell. Rung at 8pm on weekdays between the end of September and March, it signalled people should go to bed – which wouldn't be good for those late Champions League games.

Nowadays Chertsey is part of the London commuter belt, meaning a train season-ticket costs more than an Anfield season-ticket, and the European HQ of electronics giant Samsung.

The late comedian Sean Lock was born in Chertsey and other notable residents include the one and only Chesney Hawkes, The Who drummer Keith Moon, lead singer of The Darkness Justin Hawkins, ex-England goalie Rob Green and of course Harvey – although he lives up North now, la!

BLAGGING IT

Two of these sports-related facts are true, the other is made up. Will it leave you snookered or can you hit it for six?

- Ex-Reds forward Joe Hewitt played in the World Snooker Championship at Thurston's Hall in 1935.
- Ex-Reds forward Berry Nieuwenhuys played in the 1946 Open Championship on the old course at St Andrews.
- Ex-Reds striker Gordon Hodgson played 56 first-class cricket matches as a fast bowler for Old Trafford-based Lancashire County Cricket Club.

Answer: Joe Hewitt never played in the World Snooker Championships, but became a member of LFC staff when he retired. Berry Nieuwenhuys played in the first two rounds of the 1946 Open, missing the cut by two strokes, while Gordon Hodgson took 148 wickets for Lancashire and also hit 244 runs!

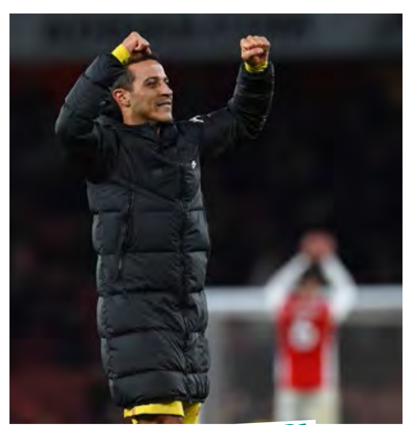
RANDOM CHANT OF THE MONTH

Tsimi, Tsimi, Tsimi,
Our Kostas Tsimikas,
His passport says he Greek,
But we all know that he's Scouse!

Most Champions League goals for LFC

1	Mo Salah	34
2	Steven Gerrard	30
3	Sadio Mane	22
4	Roberto Firmino	19
5	Dirk Kuyt	12
6	Peter Crouch	11
7	Luis Garcia	10
8	Michael Owen	9
9	Fernando Torres	8
10	Ryan Babel/Djibril Cisse	7

(correct before Benfica home)



THIAGO WAS MADE UP TO BE ABLE TO WEAR THE BOSS'S COAT WITHOUT IT TOUCHING THE GROUND



JÜRGEN KLOPP NAILS IT ON FOREST'S ATMOSPHERE •

"Not everything that they were shouting I liked, but the noise was absolutely outstanding."


NIKE
standard chartered
L.F.C.



DIOGO

The Portuguese ace on hearing his song, picking his favourite goals, competing for honours on the pitch and online, and yes, taking one game at a time

Sometimes the simplest of questions are the hardest to answer. Especially when you're Diogo Jota and you're spoiled for choice with possibilities to pick from. "Diogo, you've scored over 30 goals for Liverpool now. Which is your favourite?"

Seven of those goals came against Arsenal. Four against Leicester City. There was a hat-trick against Atalanta in Italy, his brilliant turn and finish against Everton at Goodison Park and goals in consecutive 4-2 and 5-0 away wins against Manchester United at Old Trafford. And let's not forget a header at home to Atletico Madrid, his first goal in front of an Anfield crowd against Burnley, and an FA Cup quarter-final winner at Nottingham Forest.

But when it comes down to it, after giving it some thought, it's a goal that Jota got to celebrate twice that he regards as his most enjoyable in a Liverpool shirt so far.

"That's not easy to pick," he says before pausing for thought. "I think the second goal at Arsenal that sent us to the Carabao Cup final, the goal that put us at Wembley…maybe that one."

After chesting down Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass and chipping the ball over Gunners goalie Aaron Ramsdale, Jota's initial celebrations were cut short by an assistant referee's flag. VAR took a look and spotted that he was onside, resulting in referee Martin Atkinson awarding the goal and Diogo heading back to the travelling Kop to celebrate again.

It was a night when his 'Oh he wears the number 20' song echoed around The Emirates and he enjoyed the experience so much that when Liverpool returned to North London in the Premier League he opened the scoring in front of the travelling Kop as Liverpool beat Arsenal 2-0 again.

"I feel proud when I hear that song," he admits. "Obviously when you are on the field you are listening to something your fans are singing about you and it means that you must have been doing good things.

"It gives you a feeling that you need to keep on going. Maybe you have a shot off-target, but the Liverpool fans still chant your name and that is nice. It gives you extra energy to keep going and to keep trying to do the right things."

He's certainly been doing the right things in front of goal this season. Diogo's FA Cup quarter-final winner against Forest at the City Ground was his 19th goal of the season in his 39th appearance, making it the most prolific campaign of his entire career.

However, after suffering an ankle injury against Internazionale in the San Siro in February, he failed to score in six games after his return to the pitch, prompting questions about his fitness until he ended that run with goals at Arsenal, Forest and for Portugal in their World Cup qualifying play-off win against Turkey.



At Wolves he also had a reputation as a player who scores in flurries, so how does he view it? "I have to cite Ronaldo," he replies. "Once he said 'it was like catch-up' [when you score a flurry of goals following a drought]. That was in the Euros [Ronaldo scored twice against Hungary at Euro 2016 in Portugal's third group game after failing to net in the opening two matches] and I think about that sentence because it is true.

"Sometimes you just need one goal to kick off everything and in a striker's world you need that first one to come. Maybe after my first goal post-injury that is what is happening now.

"My form was not quite what it was before the injury, but that is football. I'm mainly thinking it was because of the injury, maybe it was not. You never know and sometimes you go through these periods. But I hope I can keep helping the team by scoring goals because that's what I do best."

Another bonus of Jota scoring regularly for the Reds is that, at the time of writing ahead of the home Premier League game against Watford, the Reds have never lost when he's found the net. That run currently stretches to 26 games, although it's not something Diogo places much emphasis upon.

"Maybe that's the problem when we lose then – I need to score," he laughs. "Stats are always relative, I would say. Some show what happened, some not really.

"I'm joking when I say maybe we lose a game because I cannot score, but sometimes it is true. Results depend on many things so while this stat is good, it is only a stat."

It is a fact that Liverpool will win a twentieth league title, a seventh European Cup and an eighth FA Cup if they win all their remaining games in season 2021/22. April has so many matches to play that perhaps the landscape will have changed by the time you're reading this, but at the time of this interview the quadruple was still possible and impossible to ignore.

"The truth is we can win three more competitions because we are still in them, but it has never happened in England so it is really hard to get that," says Jota. "We just think game-by-game and that's what we are focused on at the moment.

I FEEL PROUD WHEN I HEAR THAT SONG. WHEN YOU ARE ON THE FIELD YOU ARE LISTENING TO SOMETHING YOUR FANS ARE SINGING ABOUT YOU AND IT MEANS THAT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DOING GOOD THINGS, IT GIVES YOU EXTRA ENERGY




ENERGY DRINK
Carabao ENERGY DRINK
Carabao ENERGY DRINK
ENERGY DRINK
20
LFC
LFC

"I would love to win them all. The Premier League is really important, as is the Champions League and even the FA Cup. They are all very prestigious trophies that I've never won before, so I will be very happy if I can win at least one of them."

It is widely believed that the winner of the Manchester City v Liverpool game will be champions, but we all painfully know that isn't always the case. Liverpool's 3-2 victory against the Cityzens at Anfield in April 2014 appeared to have tipped the balance in the favour of Brendan Rodgers' Reds, but a 0-2 home defeat to Chelsea and 3-3 draw at Crystal Palace allowed City to pip Liverpool to the post.

Whatever the outcome at the Etihad, the race will still be on, although Jota hasn't spent his nights comparing fixture-lists. "To be honest, I don't know the calendar of both teams. All I know for sure is there are no easy games in the Premier League so what can be seen as an advantage or disadvantage in the calendar could mean nothing in the end."

If Liverpool do finish as champions he will complete a unique double by becoming the first player to win both the Premier League and the ePremier League, albeit with different clubs.

In 2020 he officially became the Premier League's FIFA champion by beating Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold in the ePremier League Invitational final.

"Back then I was representing Wolves and I got to the final where I played Trent," he recalls. "I won by a golden goal! It was funny and entertaining at that moment because everybody was at home [due to lockdown]. The fans interacted with us and it was obviously nice to win as well!

"I would say Trent was the best player that I played against, not only because it was the final but because it was a proper game as well. It was a draw and decided by a golden goal so it was a tough one.

"I have also played once against Tekkz [Donovan Hunt], who represents Liverpool [on PlayStation] now and is a very good player, and I've played against a Portuguese player called Diogo [Diogo Mendes] who also represents Liverpool [on Xbox].

"I can win a game if everything goes to plan, but it is really hard against these guys as they are really, really good."

Despite winning the group stage with a perfect record of four wins from four, Tekkz and Diogo were knocked out of the 2021/22 ePL Grand Finals last month at the quarter-final stage following a shock 3-1 aggregate defeat to Crystal Palace.

With the popularity of online competition growing, Jota also has his own Diogo Jota Esports team. It seems he suits the role of club owner too – like Reds owners FSG, who also own the Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Penguins, Jota is hoping to build a sporting empire.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED ONE GOAL TO KICK OFF EVERYTHING AND IN A STRIKER'S WORLD YOU NEED THAT FIRST ONE TO COME. MAYBE AFTER MY FIRST GOAL POST-INJURY THAT IS WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW





IT'S NOT A FRONT FIVE – WE HAVE MORE THAN FIVE ATTACKERS. MAYBE YOU DON'T PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, BUT IT'S GOOD FOR THE TEAM, AND IT'S GOOD FOR LIVERPOOL

"Back in the first quarantine in 2020, when I played in the ePremier League Invitational, I started to get really into the game [FIFA]. I needed some competition so that's why I decided to create a team.

"It competes mainly in Portugal, but the EA qualifiers are all over the world, and that's when it started. At the moment it is just FIFA, but I want to expand it to other sports as well.

"Formula One, cycling, golf, even Fortnite – there are a lot of things that people love to play and love to win at. I would say anything that involves competition is exciting."

Diogo Jota Esports even have their own kit – a black shirt which is available to buy from his website or download on FIFA22 – although you might struggle to get hold of one if you live outside of the EU.

"It's made in Portugal and because of Brexit it is hard to deliver it to the UK. I know some people here would love to buy it, but it is not possible yet. I hope in the future it will be available."

Like every team, Diogo Jota Esports has a club crest although unlike any Premier League football clubs, it features a member of his family upon it. Luna, a beagle who was pictured on social media in 2018 wearing the Championship medal that Jota won at Wolves, is the face of the team.

"We needed a mascot and she was the perfect fit. Now she's all over the world, even on the shirt. Everyone seems to know who my dog is now. She's a star, that's what I tell her every day [laughs again]!"

In November 2021, Jota was due to play a FIFA22 international qualifying match, but there was a problem. And it wasn't a poor wifi connection.

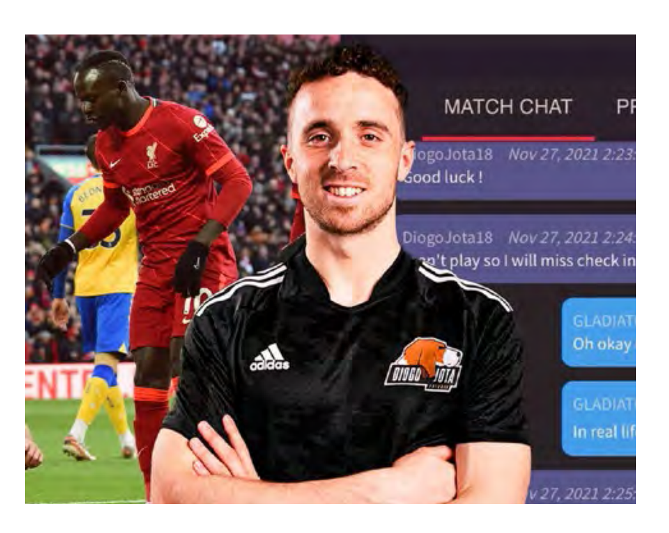
Jota's match clashed with Liverpool's Premier League fixture against Southampton at Anfield. The Reds striker was forced to forfeit against Gladiators FC, but when he opened the scoring against the Saints in the second minute on the same afternoon he celebrated by sitting cross-legged on the turf and pretending to play on his PlayStation joypad.

"I'm not as good as the guys who play in tournaments, but I participate in them and there was an EA qualifier in November. They happen just three or four times a year and they are always on a Saturday so it is always hard for me to play them all the way, but at least I can start in the first round. That's what happened.

"Before the game I said to the guy who I was meant to play against that I cannot play. "He said, 'Are you Jota?' I said yes, and then he published our chat.

"I saw this before the game [against Southampton] and thought I would do that celebration if I scored because I knew it was going to go viral anyway so I thought I'd make it even more viral!"

Back in 1997, Liverpool goalkeeper David James blamed conceding three goals in a game against Newcastle United at Anfield on his concentration being affected because he'd stayed up all night playing Tomb Raider and Tekken. He recently revealed that gaming



was big among the Liverpool squad in the 1990s with one particular Super NES game very popular. Hadouken!

"At Liverpool our favourite game was Street Fighter," James told ggrecon.com. "On away-days we would occasionally take the console to the hotel and then play Street Fighter in our room. Jamie Redknapp was pretty good at it.

"The headlines said my gaming habits were a major negative, but when you think about games themselves, like Street Fighter, everyone would sit around in the hotel room and it became a very social thing. These games became the social fabric."

Times have certainly changed and while Jota might be Liverpool's top-gamer, you won't find him having marathon FIFA sessions in front of a screen.

"It depends on the day, but I would say I spend a couple of hours on esports every day," he says. "There's not much space for anything else other than football, but I do play Fantasy Premier League. I have Jose Sa [Wolves] in goal, for example, but I'm not telling you all of my squad!"

Premier League footballers are allowed to play Fantasy Premier League but not select players from their own clubs so if Jota could have three Reds in his squad who would they be?

"Hmmm…" he replies before giving it some thought. "Maybe Trent, Mo and Joel."

What about the lad who wears the number 20? "I was not thinking about myself, but myself if I can be included!"

With Luis Diaz now added to the Liverpool squad it is hard enough for Jürgen Klopp to decide which three players to select upfront, nevermind who should be in a fantasy football team.

Jota, Diaz, Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino are considered to be the main five attacking options, yet at Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup it was Harvey Elliott who started on the right and Takumi Minamino who came on for him. Nobody who has followed the Reds over the last half-decade or so will be writing Divock Origi off from producing more Origi moments later this season either.

"It's not a front five, we have more than five attackers," points out Jota. "It is good for the team. Maybe you don't play as much as you want, but it's good for Liverpool because every time you are on the pitch you know there are at least two more top players helping you to reach the opponents goal.

"For instance, Mo is crucial. Every goal that he scores and every assist that he makes is really important. He has been on fire this season and now Luis seems like he's been here for even longer than I have! He's settled really well and really fits our style of play.

"He is full of energy and although he doesn't speak English very well it doesn't matter, he finds a way to communicate and I think he does his speaking on the pitch. That is us, that's our face, and that's why he is working so well.

"Because we have so many games – we basically play every three or four days – it is massive to have everyone on board and everyone competing in the way that we are at the minute.

"I try to always be available and I play when the manager decides to play me, either in or around the wings or in the middle. I will play where and when I'm needed."

There's a lot of football to be played and everyone is wondering what could prove to be decisive, so could those attacking options make the difference between Liverpool and City in the title race and FA Cup semi-final?

"I don't know if it's fair to try to compare both," replies Jota. "I think they have a lot of options as well. Each game at a time is our thinking and I don't think who has the best attacking options will decide anything one way or another.

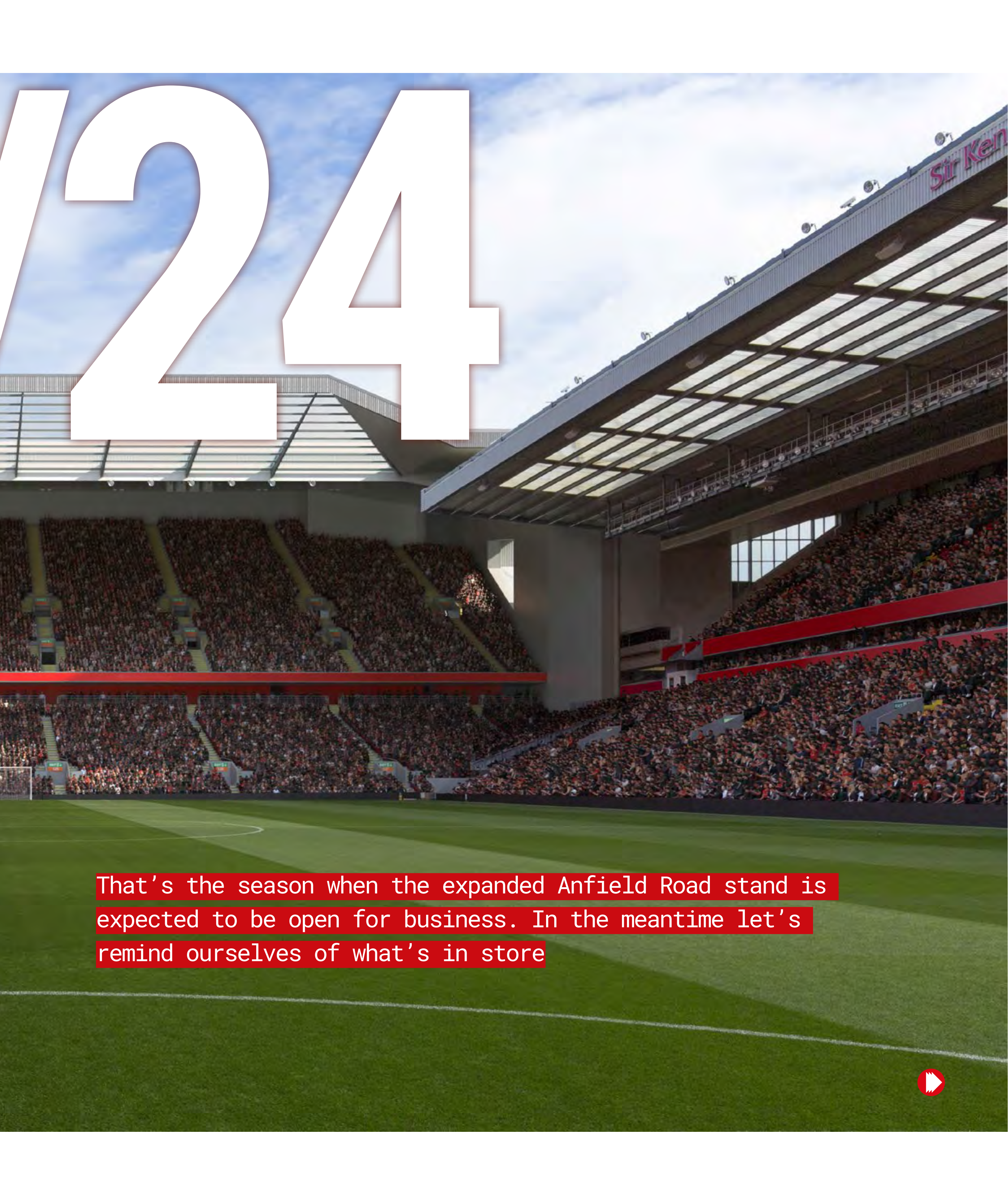
"I remember people saying we were out of the title campaign when it was late December or early January because there was a big gap. We need to be consistent, but if we are able to do it and win the Premier League it will be a great achievement."

Words: Chris McLoughlin



ANFIELD 2023/





That's the season when the expanded Anfield Road stand is expected to be open for business. In the meantime let's remind ourselves of what's in store

You can't tell from the inside, but wander around the stadium or approach it from the direction of Stanley Park, and the scale of what's happening to the Anfield Road Stand becomes more clear. Its redevelopment will add 7,000 seats to the overall capacity of the ground when it's completed in less than 18 months' time, and that's not all.

It had been reported that storms Franklin and Eunice threatened to hold up progress, along with Liverpool's ongoing pursuit of four trophies making work for contractors, the Buckingham Group, slower than initially anticipated as a result of the packed fixture-list.

But construction behind the existing stand continues apace while also allowing full-capacity on matchdays without any disruption – just as it did when the Main Stand was expanded for the start of season 2016/17.

The development plan – the third major infrastructure project of the FSG era – remains on course for completion next year with club MD Andy Hughes telling the *Liverpool Echo* last month: "It's really exciting – I have to say, I see it every week and I get the 'wow' factor myself. It's absolutely incredible the speed at which it is going up.

"We had some poor weather at the start of the year, so to still be on-track having come through the winter is all good news. It's going to be really big for the fans and by the summer you are going to see a significant change."

Construction began last September and just before Christmas the club published new drone-footage of the latest phase. Steel in the shape of a dozen 'Y' columns had been installed close to the existing stand to cantilever the structure over and create a space underneath. This was to prevent weight being transferred to the existing stand and also formed the 'void' which would become an extended lower-concourse area.

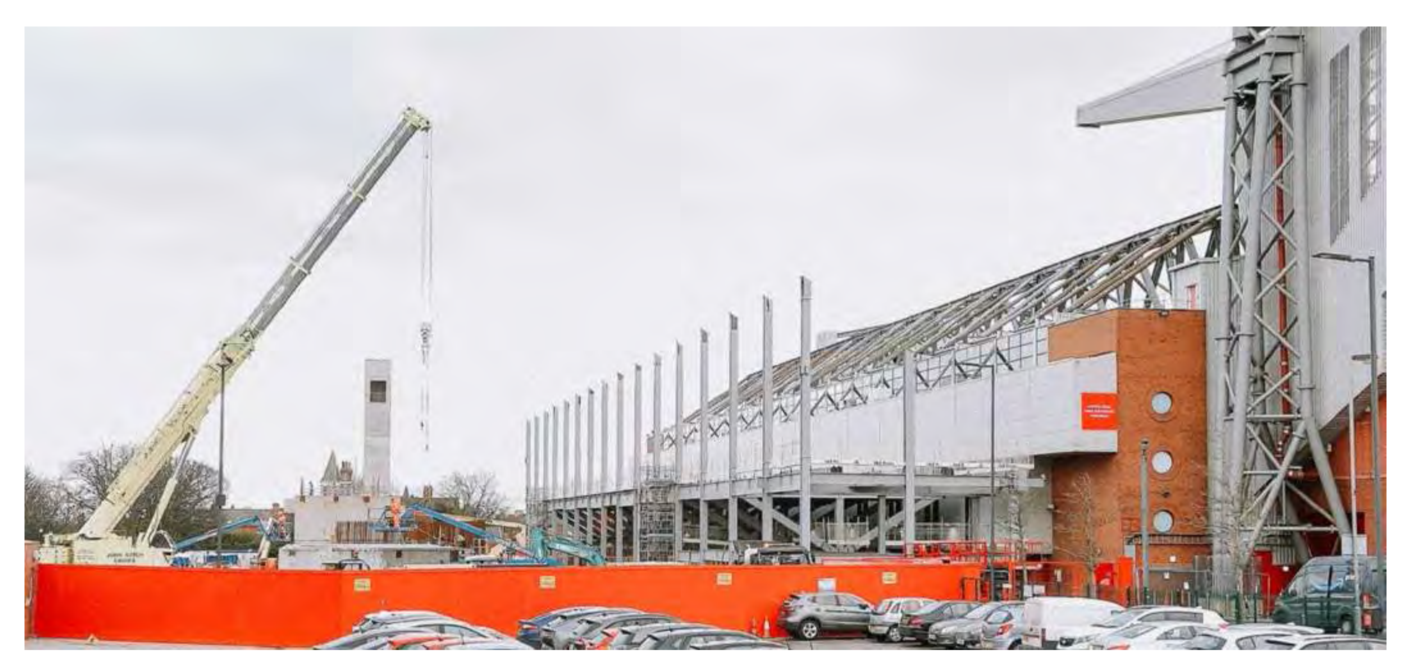
February brought behind-the-scenes images on the club website, showing that work on the central and east cores was well underway, with one of four lift shafts complete and reaching around 40 feet above the ground, to serve all floors and the roof level.

That's the technical stuff for now, but what about the more practical aspects of this latest major transformation of Anfield? How will be it benefit the people who live in this part of Liverpool?

When finished the expanded Anfield Road Stand is expected to create around 400 matchday roles, in addition to the 2,200 people currently employed in various operations at each home game, of which 95 per cent are known to live in the City Region.

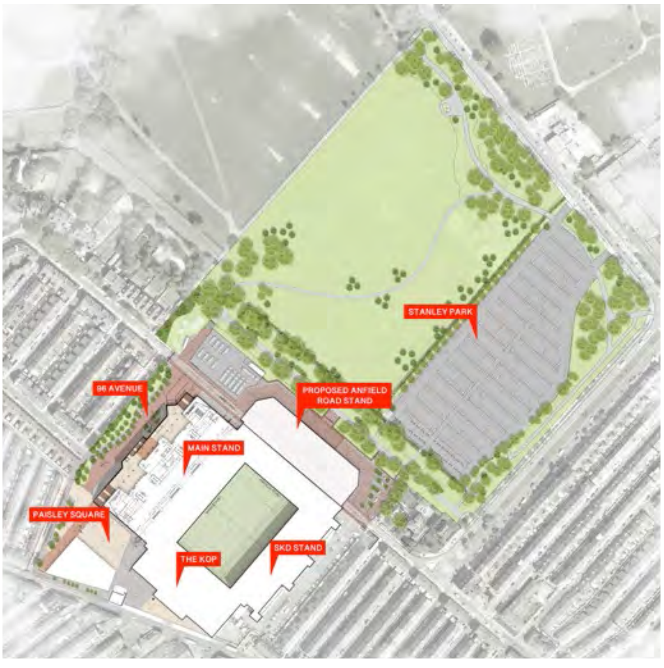











STANLEY PARK
96 AVENUE
PROPOSED ANFIELD ROAD STAND
MAIN STAND
PAISLEY SQUARE
THE KOP
SKD STAND


Summit Platforms
Summit Platforms


ANFIELD ROAD STAND





Buckingham is also working directly with the club's Red Neighbours team on a range of activities with the community and schools across food-poverty and education, as well as taking local people on the journey of the stand's redevelopment. They've been working too with employment groups and education establishments with a commitment to offering around 35 work-placements and over 800 apprentice and training weeks across the build.

Andy Hughes stressed at the start: "We have been clear that in order for this expansion to go ahead we needed the co-operation of local residents and the community, to successfully navigate the complex planning landscape and to ensure the project is financially viable.

"We needed certainty for this project to progress and are now in a position to be able to move forward. We began this journey in 2014 and are grateful to everyone for the contributions they have made."

Following two stages of public consultation and invaluable feedback on the initial plans, the project will reroute Anfield Road itself around the footprint of the new stand. It was approved by Liverpool City Council in June 2021 which also awarded the club permission to hold up to six concerts and major events at the stadium for a period of five seasons.

The design sees the lower tier retained and refurbished with a new upper tier built above it. As well as an increased capacity the redevelopment will be similar to the Main Stand with improved concourses and sports-bar lounge hospitality facilities.

This stand will also see the relocation of the Family Park to a covered position.

Throughout the design process careful consideration has once again been given to Anfield's world-class atmosphere through the development of an acoustic and lighting strategy to match that of the one developed with the Main Stand.

The four-stand stadium configuration and character has been retained and includes historical design references.

Upon completion Anfield will be one of the largest venues in the Premier League with an overall capacity of over 61,000. Of the 7,000 additional seats, around 5,200 will be general-admission and around 1,800 with hospitality facilities. This capacity-increase is the maximum achievable while complying with stadium design, safety and comfort standards.

The designs include dedicated accessible entrances for home and away supporters leading to new wheelchair tribunes with adjacent companion seats.

The new public realm will provide easy access from the disabled parking bays in Stanley Park to the stadium. In total, six per cent of the parking spaces close to the stadium will be provided for disabled supporters – in line with City Council standards.



"IT'S SPECIAL – WE HAD A GREAT TIME TODAY"





Luis Garcia summed up how pretty much everybody felt as a full house at a sunny Anfield was entertained by Liverpool and Barcelona legends for some fabulous causes

In March 2020 it was the news that no one wanted to hear, but at the time it felt sadly inevitable. A statement on the club website read: "Liverpool FC Foundation and FC Barcelona can confirm that their charity match at Anfield has been postponed following the outbreak of the coronavirus. Barça Legends are unable to travel to the UK at this time."

LFC Foundation director Matt Parish urged fans to "please hold on to your ticket – we look forward to seeing you at the game when we can rearrange it."

It took two years to put the show back on, but when the Official Legends Charity Match finally made its long-awaited return it was in glorious sunshine with good vibes everywhere. Last month a sold-out Anfield watched some of football's greatest former players in action once more and had the chance to learn more about the Foundation's mission and work.

On the day Liverpool FC Legends might have been beaten 2-1 by Barça Legends but good causes – and of course football – were the winners. Presented by AXA, the fixture will help to raise funds for a variety of LFC Foundation projects including its employability and training, and health and wellbeing programmes, which form an important part of the charity's »






MATCH DAY AT LIVERPOOL
BARCELONA
07/05/2019
SEMI FINAL
LIVERPOOL FC
ANFIELD
CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE 2019
L.F.C.
Foundation


Here to support you too
From Car, Home and Business Insurance, to Health and Wellbeing. You can be confident we're behind you every step of the way, just as we are with Liverpool FC.
Visit axa.co.uk to see how we can help you.
Know You Can
AXA
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST 1892
Official Training Partner



COVID-19 recovery support work. Proceeds will also help the Foundation's charity partners, The Owen McVeigh Foundation and Side by Side.

Forever Reds, the club's official former players association which provides support to its ex-players in need of care, particularly during the later stages of their lives, will also receive a proportion of the proceeds, along with Barcelona's official charity, the Barça Foundation.

This was the fourth Legends Charity Match at Anfield after previous fixtures against AC Milan in 2019, Bayern Munich in 2018 and Real Madrid in 2017.

In the matchday programme Reds CEO Billy Hogan welcomed fans and explained that "the Foundation's mission is to harness the power of the LFC family to create life-changing opportunities for the most under-served communities, home










standard
chartered

standard
chartered
Rakuten







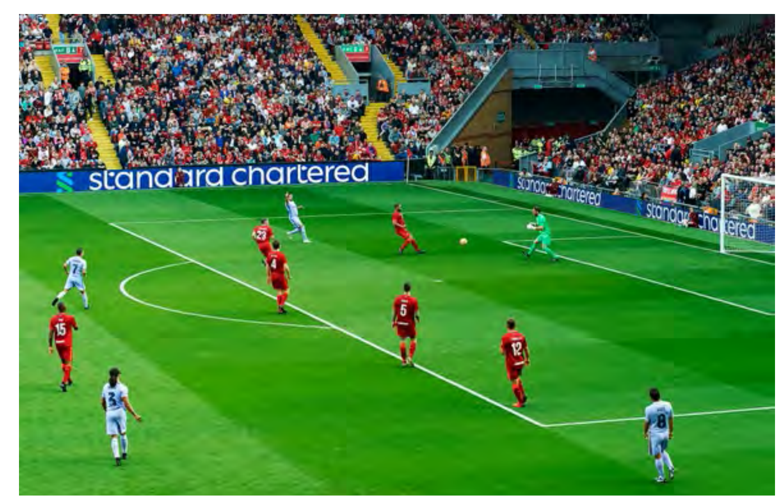


and away – and its ambition is to be the world's leading football foundation that transforms the lives of young people and families. The work continues but we know we could not do it without your wonderful support. It is recognised, it is appreciated and it's vital."

Billy also revealed that the last LFC Foundation Legends Charity Match, against Milan Glorie three years previously, had generated an amazing £800k. "All that's left for me to say is that I hope we beat that total this afternoon and enjoy a brilliant sporting occasion."

Elsewhere in the programme Legends stalwart Jamie Carragher, who still holds the record for the most appearances in European competition for Liverpool with 149, said he'd been keeping himself fit but knew it would be a real challenge against some of Barcelona's finest ex-players.

"I don't play football as part of my training now, I just do boxing stuff, keep fit, things like that, so you can be a little bit rusty. But I'm pretty confident I'm doing a lot more than a lot of the players who will be pulling on that red shirt, so fitness is the least of my worries – it's just whether I can do anything with the ball!











"Each year, as you get older, there are players coming into these Legends sides who are younger and fitter and probably better for the team in terms of winning these games, so you never know when your last one may be. So it's great to get together as players – we don't see each other that often.

"We have a laugh and a joke but when the boots are on it all becomes serious. Nobody wants to embarrass themselves and up until now, fingers crossed, we're unbeaten at Anfield. But I think we will get a serious testing against Barcelona."

Team-mate Jason McAteer likened the experience to Christmas Day. "To get to play football again for this fantastic club, to get to put the shirt on, get together with old friends and catch up, get on the grass again… For the head, it's amazing. For the body, it's the worst thing you can possibly do when you're 50!

"This is one of the highlights of the year for me. I love the

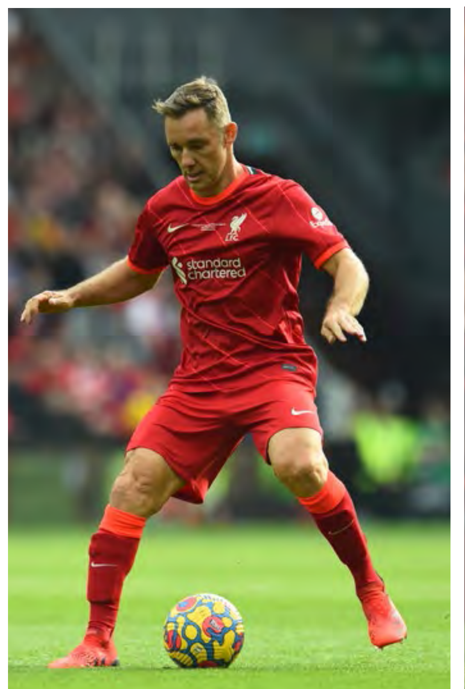


fact that before the pandemic we put a game on every year and now we're hopefully getting back to that. We've played big teams like AC Milan, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid over the last few years and made a phenomenal amount of money for great causes which has been put back into different charities and initiatives, which is what it's all about.

"Being on the pitch with the likes of Steven Gerrard, Daniel Agger and Glen Johnson, which I never got the opportunity to do when I was playing, is fantastic. To play with these players I haven't played with before is a privilege. To see them at almost their best, still... You see how Steven scored the winner at the end against Milan the other year. It's great to be on the pitch and appreciate how good they were."

Gerrard had indeed netted in the final moments of the 3-2 win over Milan Glorie in 2019. In the 5-5 draw with Bayern Munich he wasn't on target but had hit the woodwork, and against Real Madrid the previous year he'd supplied two assists and scored in Liverpool's 4-3 victory.

This time it was Stevie's penalty which handed the Reds a crowd-pleasing early lead, but Giovanni brought Barça back on level terms with a well-taken goal on 44 minutes, and the






KVARME
GERRARD
8
OOLFC.COM/
Rakuten

Catalans sealed a comeback win shortly after the restart as the great Rivaldo expertly tucked away a spot-kick.

The LFC XI which started the match was Westerveld, Carragher, Hyypia, Agger, Johnson, Aurelio, Kvarme, Diao, Gerrard, Garcia, and Kuyt. After the interval, home co-managers Sir Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush rang the changes and played Dudek, McAteer, Babb, Enrique, Downing, McManaman, Smicer, Berger, Rodriguez, Gerrard and Baros. Switching to the Barça side for the second half was Luis Garcia.

On 14 minutes Liverpool went ahead when Dirk Kuyt guided a through-ball for Gerrard to chase and, having reached the ball first, the no8 went down in the box under the challenge of Edmilson. Up he stepped to sweep the spot-kick into the bottom-right corner. The hosts had chances to extend their lead through Garcia, who nodded wide from Fabio Aurelio's pinpoint left-wing cross, and Sami Hyypia who had a header cleared off the line. But the visitors equalised just before the break when Giovanni and Saviola exchanged passes to beat the offside trap and allow the former to finish past Sander Westerveld.

In the second half Barça went in front when Giovanni's goalbound run was stopped short by a Phil Babb foul inside the area. Rivaldo took responsibility and sent a perfect pen soaring into the top corner. Again the Reds had chances, but Milan Baros couldn't quite convert two good opportunities and their guests held on to claim the win.

Garcia, who switched from red to garnet-and-blue between halves, said afterwards: "From the beginning I knew I was going to have a chance of winning today!








standard chartered
L.F.C.


Expedia




L.F.C.




ENRIQUE
3

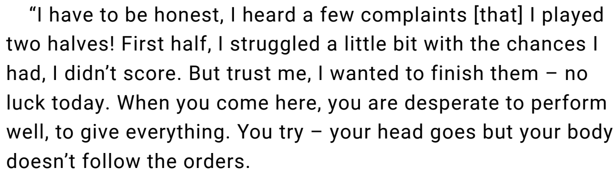

Expedia
standard chartered
APPLY AT











"I have to be honest, I heard a few complaints [that] I played two halves! First half, I struggled a little bit with the chances I had, I didn't score. But trust me, I wanted to finish them – no luck today. When you come here, you are desperate to perform well, to give everything. You try – your head goes but your body doesn't follow the orders.

"It's special – that's why all the former players want to come here to play, not only from the Liverpool side, also from the Barcelona side. You have to do a list of 22 but there is a long list who would've loved to be here.

"This is a special ground, everybody knows that. When there was a chance for Barça to come here and play, everybody says yes straightaway. And all the families were looking forward to this game. You can see the children before the game, and all the players came out to look around and enjoy the atmosphere.

"It's been fantastic, we had a great time today."

Man-of-the-match Daniel Agger added: "I don't play football at all [now], so I was trying my best to hide it! As we said in the dressing-room at half-time, it's easy to play football if you keep the ball – and we definitely didn't do that!

"But it's just nice to be here, nice to be here on the pitch, nice to play football again."



PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Controversial? Not really. Other team-mates rightly earn the headlines, but anyone who knows their football knows that Joel Matip has been magnificent this season

Words: William Hughes


CHELSEA FC
V
LIVERPOOL FC
27TH FEBRUARY 2022
CARABAO CUP FINAL
L.F.C.
standard chartered



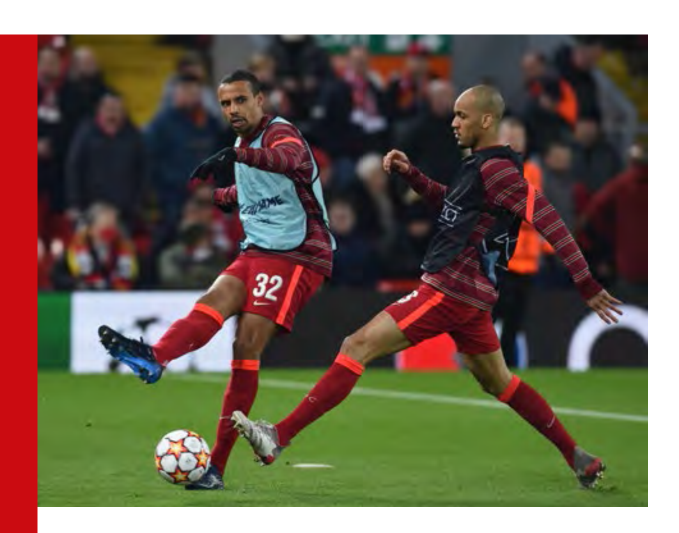
OF COURSE IT'S A COOL THING TO WIN THIS AWARD AND I'M PROUD AND HAPPY BUT IT IS NOT MY MAIN TARGET. MY TEAM-MATES WERE HAPPY FOR ME AND VERY SUPPORTIVE, AND I ALWAYS KNOW THAT THEY HAVE MY BACK

When the chance presented itself to bring Joel Matip to Liverpool on a free transfer in the summer of 2016, Jürgen Klopp didn't think twice. The Reds manager, just months into his tenure at Anfield, had long since been impressed by the centre-back's performances at Schalke 04, regional rivals of his former club Borussia Dortmund.

"He is a top-class centre-half, very young but experienced. You don't have that too often," explained Klopp at the time. "To be honest, when I had my break I thought for the next club [I join], I should think about Joel, if there was a need.

"He never played for my team, he did the extreme opposite – he played for their biggest opponent! Maybe that says a lot about his quality. Even when he played for the team you cannot love as Dortmund manager, you see his quality.

"The chance was there and Joel wanted to do something different. He is and was really close to his club. It's normal, he played there since he was a youth player. I think there was no chance for another Bundesliga club in this moment, but Liverpool was the right name and the right club."



Coming up to six years later, Matip ranks alongside Gary McAllister and James Milner in the conversation about the Reds' best free-transfer of recent decades.

Kopites have enjoyed watching the Bochum-born no32 bring an air of composure to the back-line with his many defensive attributes coupled with an ability to bring the ball out from the back and start attacks, surprising rigid opposition formations. As he showed in sensational style against Leeds United in February, he can finish them off too.

Reds supporters understood from the start that in Matip they had a fine player on their hands. In November 2016, just months into his Liverpool career he was named as the club's Standard Chartered player of the month.

It seems strange then that it's taken the rest of the football world quite some time to cotton on to Matip's qualities. Strange in the sense that here is a player, after all, who started this season with UEFA Champions League, Premier League and UEFA Super Cup winner's medals.

This term he has been an instrumental part of the Liverpool team that has been fighting for honours on every front. He may not get the plaudits of fellow defenders Virgil van Dijk, Trent Alexander-Arnold or Andy Robertson, but ask any one of that trio about the former Cameroon international and they will be quick to highlight his many qualities.

Back in September, following a typically outstanding Matip display against AC Milan in the Champions League, Klopp was quizzed about the defender's performance. "Look, I cannot help people who don't see the quality of Joel Matip," he replied.

The wider recent recognition saw Joel named as the Premier League's player of the month for the first time in February, as

he saw off competition from fellow nominees Che Adams, Ryan Fraser, Harry Kane, Ben Mee and Wilfried Zaha.

It was a month that also saw him add the Carabao Cup to his list of honours. But for a controversial refereeing decision, he may have been the Wembley matchwinner before the final against Chelsea went to penalties.

In recent weeks his name has been mentioned regularly on social media in the debates about those who might be shortlisted for the Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Association's player-of-the-year awards.

While the 30-year-old was delighted to receive the monthly Premier League accolade, he is also quick to point out that he is not motivated by individual awards: "Of course it's a cool thing and I'm proud and happy but I don't do it for that. It is not my main target.

"My team-mates were happy for me and very supportive. There were some jokes, but altogether it is always about the team. I always know that they have my back, so yes, they were happy for me."

The Reds headed into the final international break of the season unbeaten in domestic football since the turn of the year and with a Champions League quarter-final against Benfica to look forward to. Matip admits that it has been exciting to be a part of a squad capable of competing for honours in all fronts.

"Of course we have a great team and the self-confidence is also not too bad at the moment and we know what we can do. We just have to keep working hard and then the next three points will not be too far away.

"In the Premier League when you see the table from the last few seasons, every game is important and you cannot think too far ahead. It's hard to look towards a game that is in a couple of months' time somehow. And if you don't concentrate on the next game then you will fail, so this is always our focus."

He adds that winning the Carabao Cup has naturally given the whole squad a spring in their step as they target further silverware before the campaign is over: "It's a good beginning and I hope that we stay as long as possible in every competition and that we can win every competition, but the teams we are playing



WE PLAYED AGAINST LUIS WHILE HE WAS AT PORTO AND HE LOOKED GOOD, BUT THE WAY THAT HE HAS SETTLED INTO OUR TEAM IS AMAZING AND WE CAN BE REALLY HAPPY THAT HE'S ON OUR SIDE NOW

against are really strong and so it will be a really tough challenge. Like I say we need to concentrate on taking it game by game.

"There is a lot of belief. We believe in each other and every player believes in themselves so this is one important part of it and we are working hard together to get results."

On a personal level he's pleased that he has been fit enough to feature on a regular basis this season. During the 2019/20 and 2020/21 campaigns, a series of injuries restricted him to a combined total of 19 Premier League appearances. By the end of March, he had played in 23 of Liverpool's 29 Premier League fixtures.

"It wasn't always easy for me, especially with the injuries, but now I have been fit over a long enough time. I hope that it stays like this and if so I think I can help the team over a longer time.

"I'm not doing anything different this year. The whole medical team has always been looking after me but sometimes they can't have an influence – for instance, if you get a kick during a game. You can do what you can do but sometimes it is not in your hands. They try to work hard every day to keep me fit and keep the team fit and I'm pleased and happy that I've been able to stay that way for most of this season."

Liverpool went into April with the possibility [fingers crossed] of having another 16 games to play before the curtain comes down on what is shaping up to be a memorable 2021/22 season. Matip acknowledges how important it will be to have as many of the squad as possible fit and available for selection during the final two months.

"That's important and we have good strength-in-depth. It's amazing when you look at the substitutes' bench and you see who is coming in and they immediately put their effort in and it really helps us.

"The players who have come in have brought their quality and brought some new power in. Especially at this time of the season when it's getting towards the end, we need every man and every leg that we have."

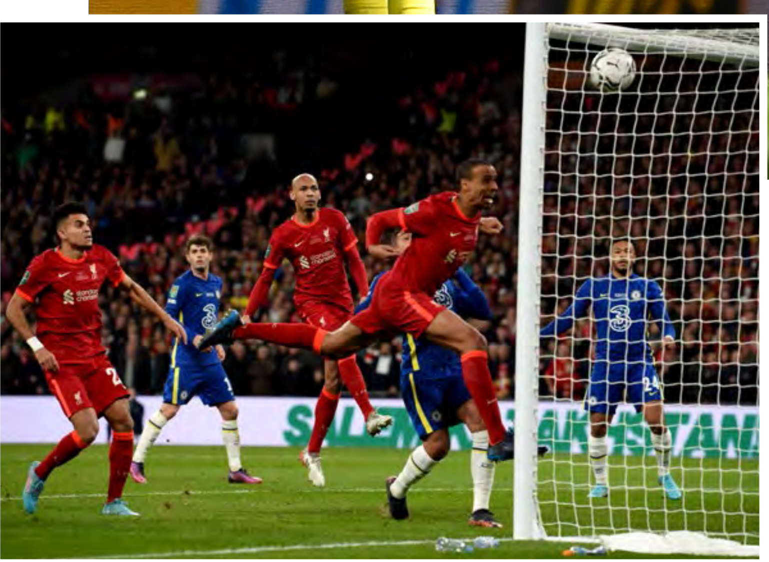
One man who has added to that depth within an already strong squad is Luis Diaz, the Colombian attacker signed from FC Porto in January. Like everyone else, Matip has been delighted with how quickly Diaz has adapted to his new surroundings and life in the Premier League.

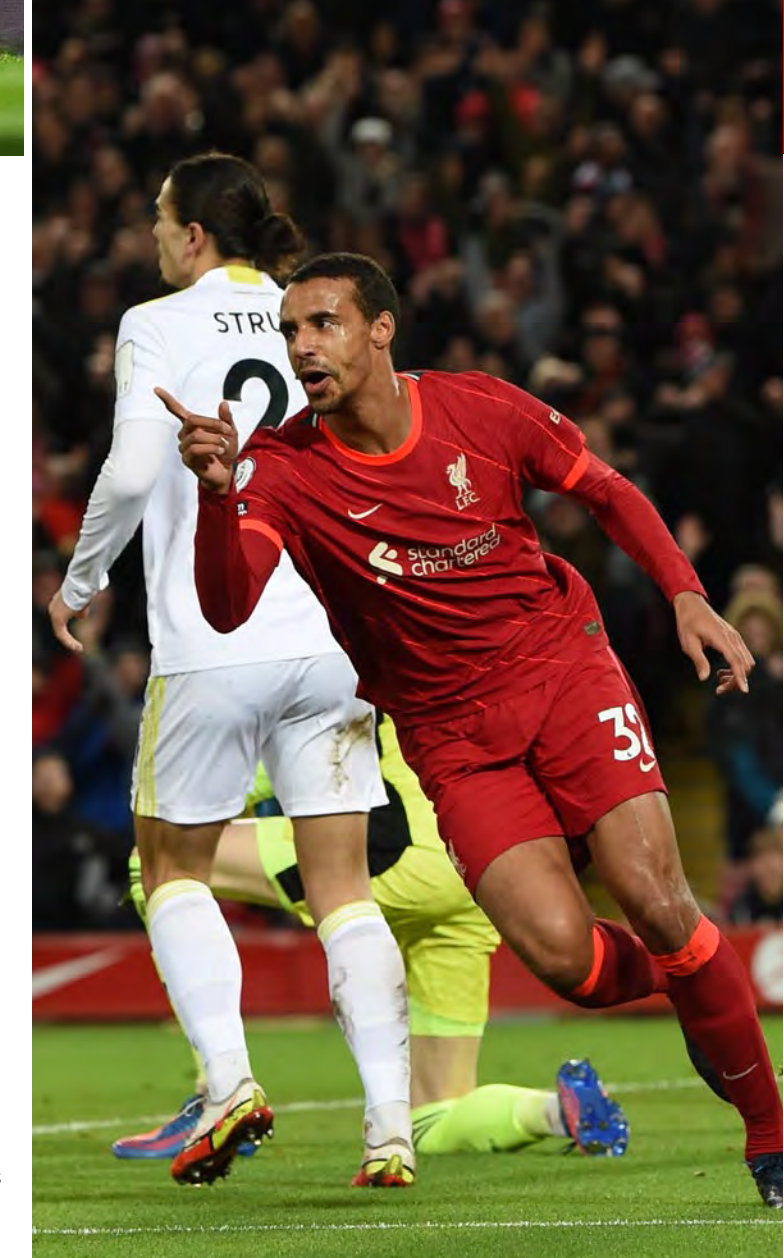
"We played against him while he was at Porto and he looked good," he recalls. "But the way that he has settled into our team is amazing and we can be really happy that he's on our side now and I am sure that he will help us in all the games throughout the rest of the season."

Among Diaz's many attributes is bravery, as demonstrated in the way he put his head in where it hurts to open the scoring in the 2-0 win at Brighton & Hove Albion last month – a goal which came from Matip's superb through-ball.

"He made a good run, I saw it and at the end of the passage of play I was just hoping that he was fit and that he could stand







up again," recalls Matip. "That was more my mindset after that situation, But of course it's always brilliant to help the team with some goals or assists. He was really brave and just went where he has to go like a proper striker."

'Like a proper striker' was a description many afforded to a goal scored by Matip himself in the 6-0 rout of Leeds United in February.

After exploiting space by bringing the ball out from the back, he found Mo Salah on the right and continued his run, before sweeping the Egyptian's return pass beyond keeper Illan Meslier with a first-time finish in front of the Anfield Road end.

Such are the levels of appreciation for Matip in L4 that the Kop bestowed upon him the famous old clapping chant usually reserved for Anfield royalty such as Ian St John and Kenny Dalglish: 'Matip!'

"I've had a few chances so far this season but that time it finally happened. I have taken a shot a few times but finally it had a good ending. If I have the opportunity and it makes sense, I will

always try and carry the ball forward. I like to do that if possible."

This magazine went to print before Liverpool's trip to Manchester City on 10 April but the Reds had done a fine job in chipping away at their rival's lead at the top of the Premier League table, reducing it to a single point by the end of March.

While that meeting will be important, Matip stresses that it will not decide the outcome of the title on its own. "It will be special but you can only get three points from that game and you only get three points against Manchester United, Everton, Newcastle and whoever else you play.

"City is an amazing team but at the end there are only three points to play for. They could be massive points but afterwards there will still be a long way to go, so we just look at our matches game to game and always only look to the next one."

Of course Liverpool and City also set to meet in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley on 16 April, but Joel continues: "I don't really follow all of their games closely. Of course sometimes I watch them but it's not that I follow every second, sitting in front of the TV hoping that the other team gets a result.

"The things that I can help influence are our performances and our games and that's what I want to put my energy and my mindset towards. I don't want to waste it hoping that somebody loses. That's my kind of thinking.

"Of course I know it's different for the fans. It's normal that as a fan you are always there watching a lot of football and hoping things go a certain way.

"But the only influence I have is on the things that I can do on the pitch so it would not help me to waste some energy on something else.

"The important thing is that as a team we have done a really good job so far and the results have been really good for us too. We need to try and keep doing it like that and then we will have a bright future ahead."



WOULD YOU RATHER...

Have hair like Trent or Virgil?
"I have never had anything similar as I've never had it that long – so neither!"

Score a last-minute winner or make a goal-line clearance to keep a clean-sheet?
"Score the goal, even as a defender!"

Eat pizza or pasta?
"A classic pizza. It's one of my favourite foods so I would always go with that!"

Swim with sharks or be covered with snakes?
"Both sound terrible! But I'd say snakes are more terrible for me, so even though it might be a stupid decision I think I'd prefer to swim with the sharks!"



Never listen to music again or watch TV again?
"That's a tough one. Before having my kid, I really watched a lot of TV but not that much anymore, so I would stay with the music."

Fly or be invisible?
"I think invisible. Nowadays you can fly more or less everywhere, so I would say invisible. I think being invisible would be something special."

Dress like Bobby Firmino or Thiago?
"Firmino is quite extrovert and he has a special kind of way he can wear it, but if I wore something like he does, it would look ridiculous! It's completely good and fine for him but for me it would just be a joke."

Be a manager or a pundit?
"No way to being a pundit. For me this is a big no! I'm also not sure that being a manager is something for me either. Normally you are not the same as a manager as the kind of player you are, but I don't know."

Eat the Cameroon dish Ndole or German bratwurst?
"I would go more for Bratwurst. I grew up in Germany so I was really used to their food. Both are great but I would go for the bratwurst."

Travel into the past or into the future?
"The future. We know about the past but the future is open and hopefully it will be a better one."

Be on or off social media?
"Off."

Have Jürgen Klopp's or Trent Alexander-Arnold's accent?
"If Trent speaks to me, he slows down and speaks proper English! But for me the coach's English accent is easy to understand because I have the same language background. It is easier to understand the coach so I would go with that."

Play upfront or in centre-midfield?
"If you see how I play, neither would really fit for my kind of skills. But if I had to choose, I'd prefer to start further forward."

Win the Premier League for the Champions League this season?
"Both would be really nice but the competition is strong."

TRUE COLOURS

It's an official LFC book like no other, bringing our story to life through the expert colourisation of 130 remarkable photographs, many of which have never been published before



A passionately-crafted celebration of the club's illustrious history, *Old Liverpool FC In Colour* is the first publication of its kind: a vivid insight into an era that, until now, had been predominantly documented only in black-and-white. Written and produced by Mark Platt and George Chilvers, it's a beautiful hardback of newly-colourised photos published by Reach Sport and on sale from this month.

In his introduction to the book, co-author and Reds fan Mark writes: "From the blue-and-white shirted 'Team of Macs' and inaugural title-winning Redmen, to the 'Untouchables' of the early 1920s and the post-war 'Crazy Gang'. Kopites with flat caps to mop-tops in suits, through the eras of 'Liddellpool' and Shanks, to the stars of the Seventies and heroes of the Eighties. League titles, cup wins and adventures abroad, the influential figures, important games and unforgettable moments.

"Until someone invents a way to travel back in time, this is the closest we will ever get to seeing the rise of Liverpool as it would have been viewed by our ancestors, who were lucky enough to experience it first-hand all those years ago.

"For this, we have the hugely-talented George Chilvers to thank. An undisputed expert in the field of colouring old football photographs, there was only ever one candidate to take on the task of this massive project and he's done a remarkable job."

BUILDING BLOCKS

Highly respected trainer Bill Connell takes on the role of senior figure in the absence of manager Tom Watson as the players gather for the annual squad photograph in 1911/12. Among the notable new arrivals for the season ahead are Kenneth Campbell, Bob Pursell and Harry Lowe, as the team that would reach the club's first FA Cup final two years later continues to take shape.

For celebrated goalkeeper Sam Hardy, this was to be his last season at the club, while vice-captain and inside-forward Ronald Orr would depart midway through the campaign. Ephraim Longworth made most appearances, missing just one game, while Jack Parkinson finished top scorer for the third successive season, registering 13 goals.

It would be a season to forget though as Liverpool narrowly avoided relegation, finishing fourth from bottom and surviving by just a point. Needing a victory away to fellow strugglers Oldham in their final game to guarantee safety, Sam Gilligan scored the crucial goal after just two minutes.

In the FA Cup it was a familiar story as they once again bowed out early, crashing to a shock 3-0 defeat away to Fulham in just the second round.



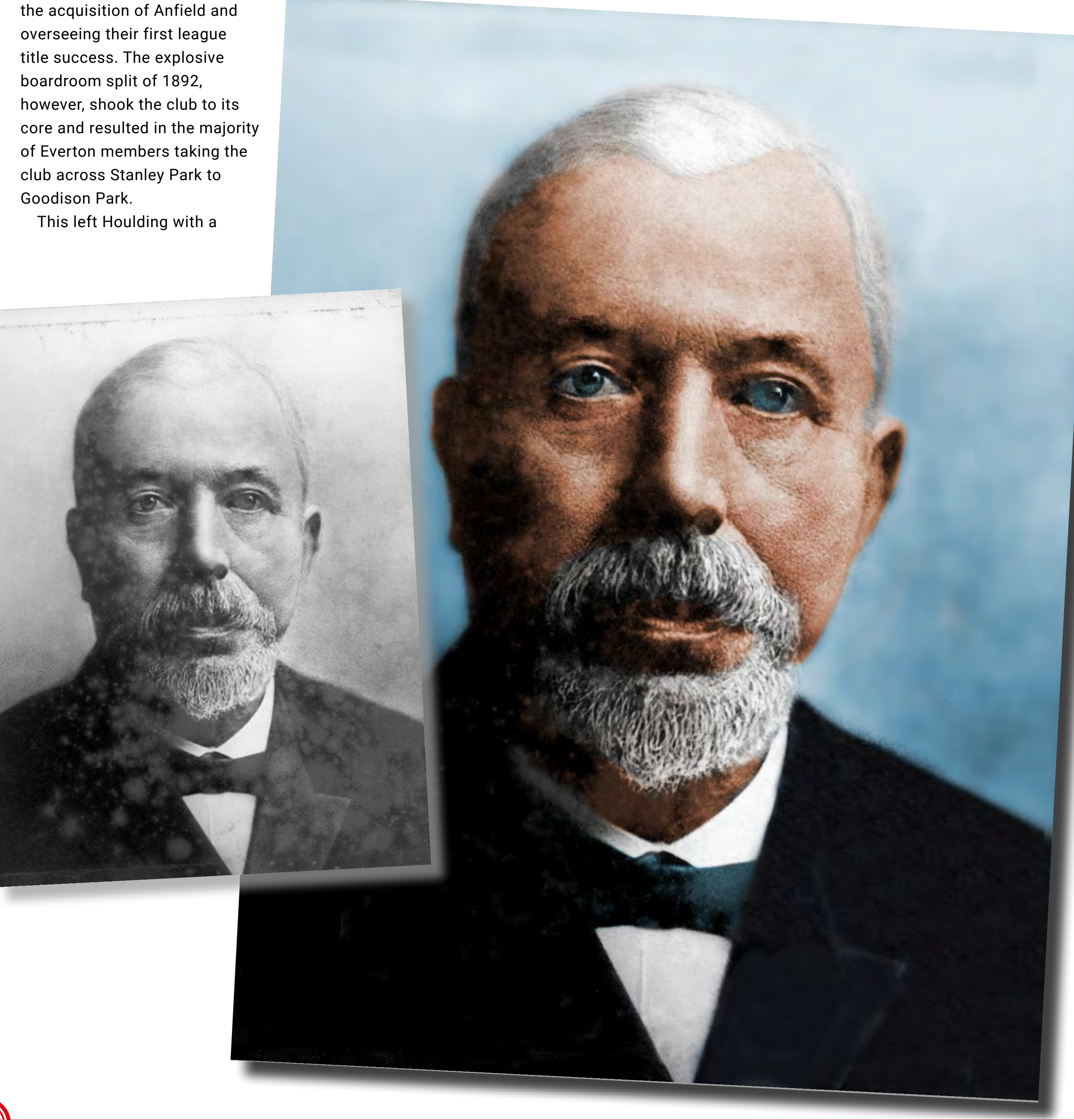
THE CREATOR SUPREME

Without John Houlding there would be no Liverpool Football Club as we know it today, and so it is with this man that the story naturally begins. A self-made businessman and politician, who would later become Lord Mayor of the city, Houlding owned a brewery and a string of pubs, including the now famous Sandon Hotel on Oakfield Road.

His influence on how the professional game in this region developed is unsurpassed. Known locally as 'King John', he was, at first, a key figure in the formative years of Everton Football Club; securing the acquisition of Anfield and overseeing their first league title success. The explosive boardroom split of 1892, however, shook the club to its core and resulted in the majority of Everton members taking the club across Stanley Park to Goodison Park.

This left Houlding with a dilemma. He had a first-class ground but no team to play in it. Yet, rather than give up on football, he decided to form a new club. It was to be an inspired move that would change the landscape of football on Merseyside forever.

Liverpool FC was born, and he ploughed his own personal fortune into making it a success, occupying the role of chairman and then president until his death in 1902. During this time, he helped the club make rapid strides and lay the all-important foundations for everything that came afterwards.





ALEX THE GREAT

Liverpool's first superstar footballer, Alex Raisbeck, is captured here in the old primrose yellow and rose pink colours of his native Scotland. Acquired from Hibernian in July 1898, Raisbeck would prove to be one of the best signings ever made by the club. It required a then substantial fee of £350 to bring him to Anfield but it was money more than well spent.

Although only 19 at the time, the future international had forged a reputation as one of the most promising players north of the border and a loan spell at Stoke proved he was also well capable of cutting it in the English First Division. John McKenna and Tom Watson were already well aware of his talent and they moved swiftly to pip the Potteries club to his signature.

Liverpool Echo correspondent Bee was another huge admirer, explaining to his readers that, 'A man of Raisbeck's proportions, style and carriage would rivet attention anywhere. He was a picture at five feet nine inches and fully 12 and a half stone; a fine and beautifully balanced figure.'

A centre-half of repute, but not only in a traditional defensive sense, Raisbeck was also a playmaker who orchestrated those around him. Similar to a modern-day midfielder, he became the central pivot of Watson's team and a firm favourite with supporters.

Given his natural leadership qualities, the captaincy soon came his way and, during the course of an illustrious Anfield career that spanned 11 seasons, so too would plenty of success.

LFC LOYALISTS

They captained, coached and managed the team, and are two of the finest servants the club has ever known. Professional to the core and unwaveringly loyal, this is Phil Taylor and Bob Paisley at the peak of their playing careers. In that classic Liverpool away strip of the time, they are first out of the tunnel at Old Trafford for a Division One fixture in 1950.

Taylor, the elder of the pair by two years, had been signed from his hometown club, Bristol Rovers, in 1936. A clever and elegant wing-half, he took over the captaincy in 1949. Paisley, a tough and tenacious half-back, hailed from the north-east and joined the Reds from Bishop Auckland the year war was declared.

Their playing styles may have been polar opposites, but they established a strong friendship, and their careers became entwined.

Together they were title winners in 1946/47 and helped steer Liverpool to the FA Cup final in 1950. But, while Taylor became the first man to lead the team out at Wembley, Paisley suffered the bitter disappointment of not being selected on that big day.

This almost led to him turning his back on football altogether but thankfully he was talked around. As the club's fortunes dipped, Paisley occasionally stepped up as stand-in skipper when Taylor was unavailable, and their playing contracts were to expire on the same day in 1954.

Both were offered roles on the backroom staff and eventually worked their way up to the top job. For Taylor that chance would come a lot sooner, but that's where the similarities ended and his long association with the club came to an end in 1959, while Paisley remained for a further 24 years.





CROWDED HOUSE

Former head groundsman Bert Riley chats to female supporters in the Paddock as a record crowd packs into Anfield to see Liverpool play Wolverhampton Wanderers in February 1952. Cup tie rattles and rosettes are out in force and a place in the fifth round of the FA Cup is at stake as excitement builds prior to kick-off.

Wolves were one of the leading teams of the time and demand for stand tickets had been so great that an editorial in the matchday programme revealed they could have been sold eight times over.

On what was to be a memorable afternoon, long queues had started forming hours before. The gates were closed early and as the players came out, supporters on the Kop were spilling onto the cinder track.

For only the third time in Anfield history, the attendance would top the 60,000-mark and the official figure of 61,905 was 869 more than the previous best, set in 1934, also for an FA Cup tie, against Tranmere Rovers.

As for the actual match, an inspired tactical switch by Don Welsh, that saw Billy Liddell and Cyril Done swap positions, left the visitors bemused and paved the way for a famous Liverpool victory, with Bob Paisley and Done scoring inside the first nine minutes.

Although the Reds' cup run came to an end at Burnley in the next round, it's a day that's long been remembered and until the Anfield capacity is sufficiently increased, that attendance record remains safe.

Another record from back then belonged to the recently-retired Riley. He had been working at Anfield since 1908 and was once the club's longest-serving employee. His son Arthur succeeded him as head groundsman and the family's association with the club would eventually span almost three quarters of a century.

WIN THE BOOK

Produced by Mark Platt and George Chilvers, *Old Liverpool FC In Colour* delves deep into the archives to take Reds fans on a nostalgic and educational journey through the initial 100 years of the club's existence – when football really was the people's game.

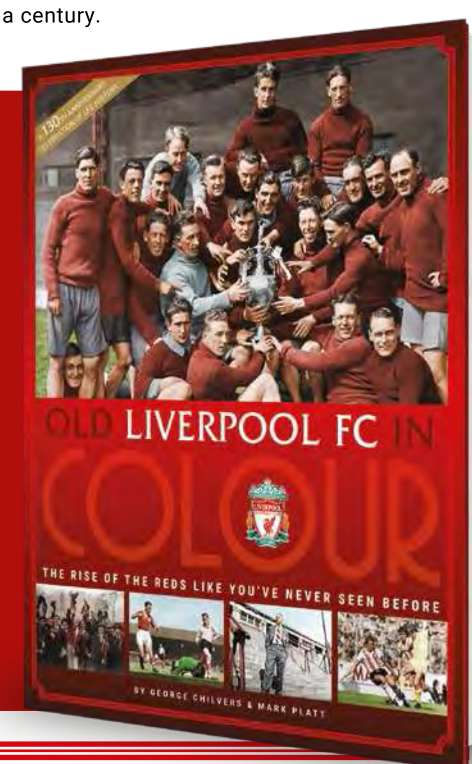
Be transported back in time to what is fast becoming an almost-forgotten age and immerse yourself in the LFC story as it unfolded back then. See Liverpool through the eyes of your ancestors – all brought together in glorious colour for the very first time.

We've got three copies to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, simply answer the following question:

***Old Liverpool FC In Colour* has been published to coincide with which LFC anniversary:**
(a) 120th (b) 130th (c) 140th?

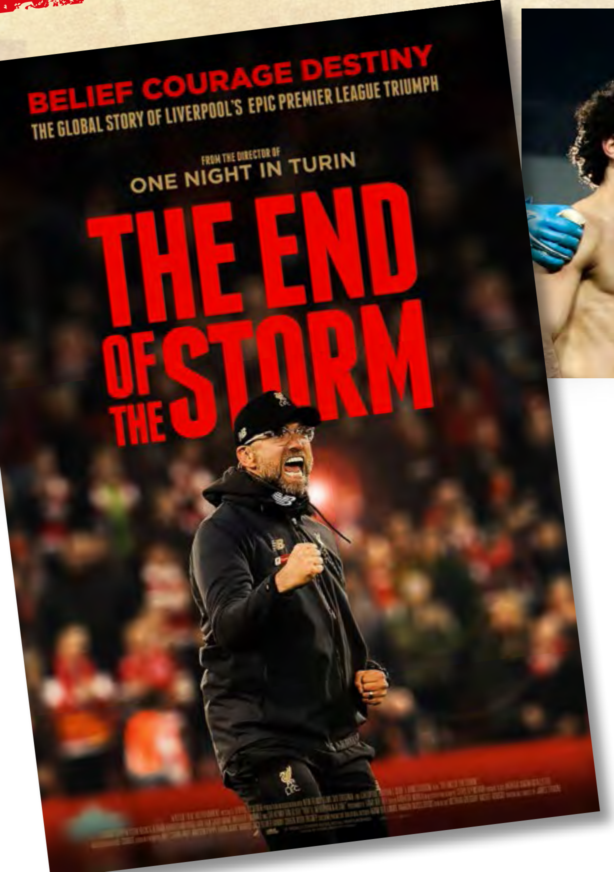
Email your answer, name, address and contact phone number with **'OLD LFC IN COLOUR COMPETITION'** in the subject line to: liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com.

Closing date is Monday 9 May 2022. Normal competition rules apply and winners will receive prizes ASAP after the closing date.





As well as LFCTV's own awesome output, a handful of recent feature-length documentaries about Reds past and present have wowed audiences all over the world



THE END OF THE STORM

Christmas 2020 brought a boss prezzie for Reds fans in the form of a brand-new feature-length documentary, telling the inside-story of Liverpool FC's 2019/20 Premier League winning campaign. With candid interviews with Jürgen Klopp and Sir Kenny Dalglish, plus players Alisson, Virgil van Dijk, Jordan Henderson, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, *The End Of The Storm* encapsulated the highs of going 25 points clear, the lows of the season being suspended due to coronavirus, and the joy of Liverpool supporters across the world as a 30-year wait for the title finally ended.

James Erskine, the film's Emmy Award-nominated director, told this very magazine how important it was to have both Klopp and Dalglish involved.

The former, he revealed, reminded him of American film director Francis Ford Coppola in that "he really tries to answer the question in front of him, addressing the person asking the question rather than giving a stock answer.

"I've interviewed thousands of people and very few of them have that characteristic that they almost have to be honest. It was a long time ago but weirdly Francis Ford Coppola was similar. Jürgen wants to give you the answer he feels in the moment rather than have a 'greatest hits' line that he pushes out."

The film, he continued, was "about fathers, the handing-down from father to son, father to daughter, and that one particular football club is the emotional currency of life.

"It was great with Kenny because he brought in Jordan Henderson but then gave him the Premier League trophy at the end. It was like a father giving a gift to a son.

"Jordan wouldn't be at the club if it wasn't for Kenny, and I was pretty interested in how that connected to Jürgen. Taking responsibility is a big theme in the film and I think that's one of Jürgen's big things.

"He makes his players take responsibility, which can be incredibly empowering if it's done in the right way."







KENNY



Described by *The Mirror* newspaper as "desperately moving, emotional and funny," the movie *Kenny* was released in November 2017, chronicling both Dalglish's triumphs and the tragedies with unprecedented access to his family, with its world premiere at Liverpool's FACT cinema. Since then, the Reds legend has been knighted for services to football, charity and the city of Liverpool – with his stand at Anfield duly renamed – and he's handed over the Premier League trophy to Jordan Henderson.

The movie won Best Film Audience awards at three film festivals and was later shown on the prestigious *Storyville* documentary strand on the BBC. It was directed by BAFTA winner Stewart Sugg, who's also worked with Alan Shearer, Roger Federer, Tiger Woods and Jess Ennis-Hill, among others.

The most poignant part was undoubtedly Kenny's recollections of Hillsborough. Rather than return to the scene, he parked up on a hillside overlooking the stadium in Sheffield and reflected: "I don't want to go back, I don't want those memories to come back to the forefront of my mind. People might say you are running away from it. If I am, I am. But at the end of the day it still won't get me back."

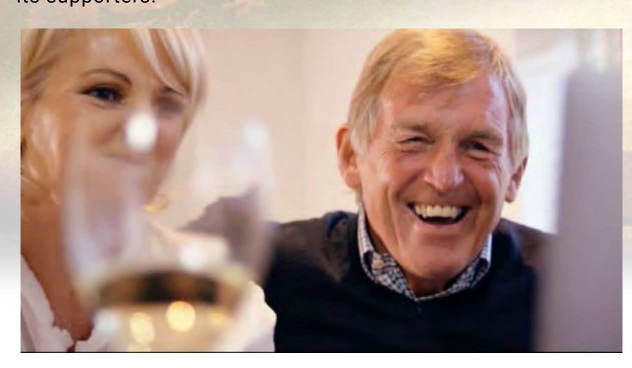
Nevertheless Dalglish and his wife Marina were a pillar of support for the families of the 96 in the aftermath of the tragedy and have stood alongside them ever since. So much so that, a year prior to the film's release, Kenny and the families had received the Freedom of the City at Liverpool Town Hall.

In his review on *The Guardian* website, sports columnist Barney Ronay writes: "Dalglish was first of all a wonderful footballer, one of the three greatest in England – along with Thierry Henry and Cristiano Ronaldo – in this observer's lifetime.

"Career highlights aside, *Kenny* is a sombre film, if only because his has been a life with more than its share of grief and sorrow." But Ronay also calls it a "beautifully-framed football film" too.

The *Mirror* review declared: "The theme of the *Kenny* film is family. Not only the rocks of wife Marina, children Kelly, Lauren, Lynsey and Paul, but the family of a football club and its supporters."





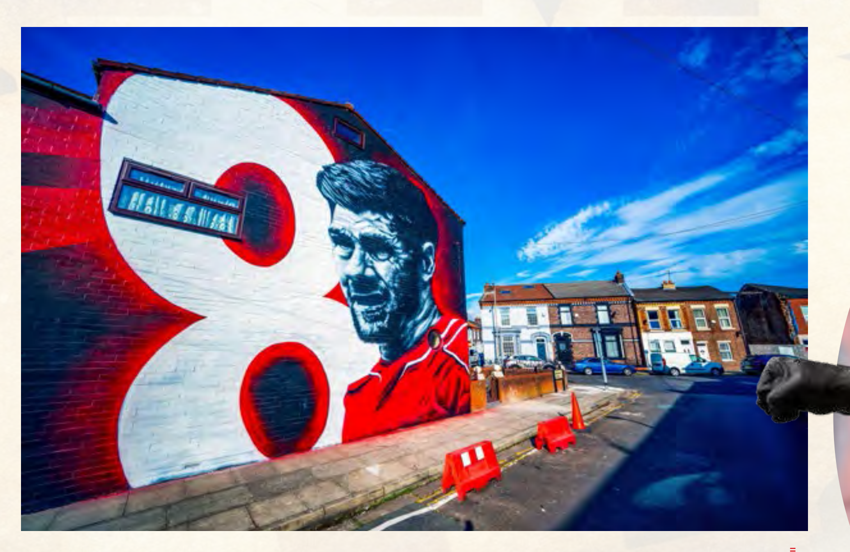
STEVEN GERRARD: MAKE US DREAM



This compelling documentary about the former Reds skipper was shown in UK cinemas in November 2018 then streamed worldwide by Amazon Prime. It was produced by James Gay-Rees, whose earlier credits included *Senna* (about the legendary Brazilian F1 driver) and *Amy* (Winehouse), and directed by Sam Blair, who described it as "an ambitious, cinematic film that reaches beyond sport" telling "a story that is both deeply personal and reflective of a wider story of our times."

Everything is here: the tragedy of losing his cousin at Hillsborough, his friendship with Michael Owen, breaking into the first team, the Miracle of Istanbul, his relationship with Rafa Benitez, the rivalry with (and overtures from) Chelsea, the departure of Fernando Torres, the groin injury in 2011 which very nearly ended his career.





Irish Times reviewer Tara Brady, who admitted to being a Reds fan, hailed it as "an entirely splendid portrait of Liverpool FC's former talismanic captain. *Make Us Dream* largely draws on archival footage with unfussy recollections from Gerrard, his parents and assorted colleagues and commentators. By letting the football do most of the talking, it gets properly stuck into the recent history of the sport."

We can't talk about Steven Gerrard and movies without mentioning *One Night in Istanbul*, the comedy-drama written and produced by Reds fan Nicky Allt. Its own premiere was held in September 2014 at the Odeon Cinema in Liverpool ONE and was attended by Steven and Jamie Carragher.

SHANKLY: NATURE'S FIRE

The world premiere of this superb Shanks biopic took place in late October 2017 at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall and was hailed as a resounding success. The *Liverpool Echo* commented: "Thirty-six years after he drew his last breath on this earth, Bill Shankly is still commanding standing ovations. His latest came at the conclusion of the world premiere [and] it was warranted.

"The 90-minute documentary style biopic drew a near full-house. You've heard many of the anecdotes, sayings and quips before, but they still elicit knowing smiles and nods. And the biopic, produced by Mike Todd and Peter Hooton, is delivered in a simple, no-nonsense style Shankly would have approved of."

The *Scotsman* newspaper's review called Shanks "one of the most mesmeric figures in the history of 20th century Scotland" and described the film as "a long overdue retrospective…

"Ultimately it looks to pinpoint the alchemy that caused an entire city to fall under his spell. There is no definitive answer, though the search for illumination is instructive. Out of a cast of erudite and informed contributors, the former Scotland forward Ian St John comes closest to articulating Shankly's mysterious pull: 'You learned from him that it was about giving rather than taking', he explains."

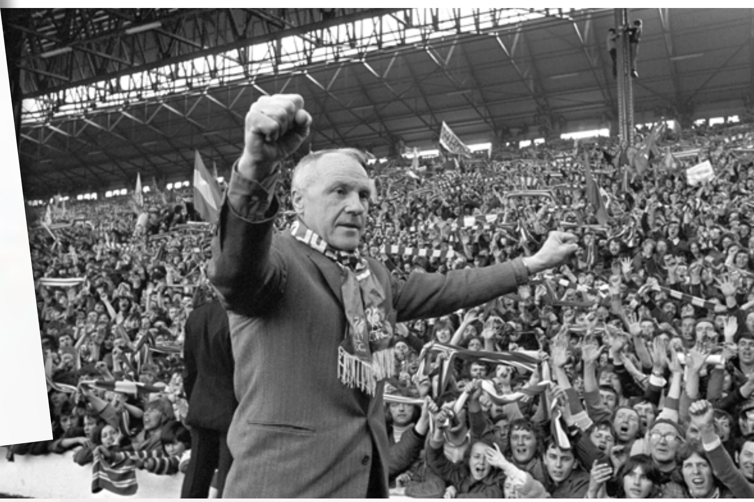
For director Todd, making the film had been a journey not just into the legacy of Shanks but the soul of the game itself. "We're in a new age of football and people want to understand its roots, so it's important that *Nature's Fire* is accessible even for those who don't know the scale of this legend," he told the LFC matchday programme.

"There's something about the culture of football in Liverpool which makes it a fascinating place to look at. And it's Bill's relationship with the people of Liverpool that makes it, for me, football's greatest story.

"I was continually amazed by the willingness of people to speak as soon as you mentioned Bill's name: Ian St John, Denis Law, Roger Hunt, Kevin Keegan, and Steven Gerrard among them. They gave up their time straightaway, such was their affection for Shankly. They all had such profound admiration for him. It was a remarkable phenomenon."

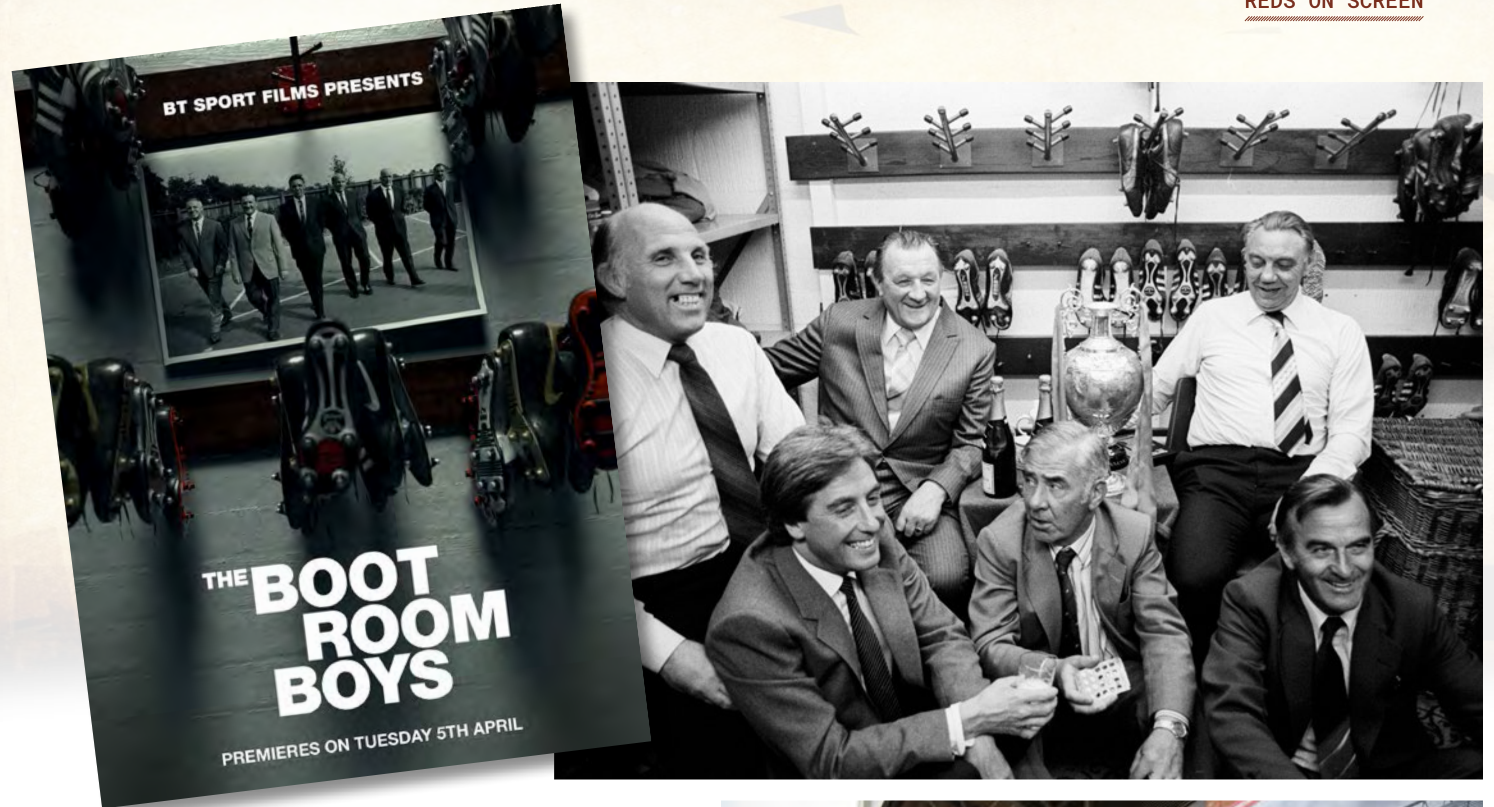
An honourable mention, too, for *The Three Kings*, the excellent late 2020 documentary about Shankly and fellow Scottish managers Matt Busby and Jock Stein.







L.F.C.
Carlsberg
Carlsberg
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official Beer Partner





THE BOOT ROOM BOYS

Ninety minutes fly by in this new, stirring story of the backroom team which plotted three glorious decades of Liverpool FC success. It's a 'film of the book', as they say, having been inspired by Peter Hooton's *The Boot Room Boys: The Unseen Story of Anfield's Conquering Heroes*, published in late 2018.

At the premiere in Liverpool's packed-out Everyman Cinema last month, Hooton thanked everyone who'd contributed to the film before paying tribute to Shankly, "the biggest Scouser of them all."

Members of the great man's family were present in the audience, as well as Roy Evans, Alan Kennedy and David Fairclough – all of whom appear in the documentary along with Sir Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush, Phil Thompson, Jimmy Case, Sammy Lee, Willie Stevenson and Chris Lawler, plus the sons of Bob Paisley, Ronnie Moran, Joe Fagan and Geoff Twentyman.



There are cameos too by Jürgen Klopp, who reveals there is now a "Boot Room reloaded" in "the best pub in Liverpool" – you'll have to watch the film to learn how the institution continues to shape Anfield today – plus his assistants Pep Lijnders and Peter Krawietz.

Shankly's arrival at Anfield in December 1959 was the catalyst for establishing a legendary lineage of Liverpool coaches and managers to pass through the four walls of what was a small meeting-place underneath the old Main Stand.

Although the Boot Room is very much part of Anfield folklore, film director Tom Boswell felt that no adaptation had yet done it full justice. The mark of a good documentary about LFC is always the reaction from the fans – and those in the Everyman audience broke into applause at the end.

True to its subject, funny and moving at times, with rarely-seen footage and a great soundtrack, it's the latest in an award-winning series of BT Sport Films. Others include: *Two Tribes* (about the rivalry of Liverpool and Everton in the Eighties); *George Best, True Genius*; *Too Good to Go Down* (Manchester United's relegation in the mid-1970s); and *Standing Firm: Football's Windrush Story* (the impact of Caribbean migration on English football).

The movie premiered on BT Sport 3 in early April and is now available to watch via the BT Sport App and website.

NABY LAD!

Midfielder Keita on competition for places, the iconic no8 shirt, Mo and Luis and Sadio, and chasing the impossible dream »


L.F.C.

NABY, AS WE APPROACH THE 'BUSINESS END' OF THE SEASON, HOW DO YOU COPE WITH THE DIFFICULT SITUATION OF PLAYING THREE GAMES A WEEK?

It's our job and we're used to it. We're used to coping with three games a week and we have a whole squad here and a large backroom team with physios who work with the manager and they monitor how many minutes we're playing.

It's mainly about training, recuperating and resting before the next game. We have things like ice-baths to cope with the schedule too. But when you're a player, you know how to manage your body. You know how much you need to rest so it's something that we're used to and we cope with.

HOW DO YOU FIND THE COMPETITION WITH ALL THE OTHER MIDFIELDERS AT LIVERPOOL?

I think it's a real positive. We have so many top class midfielders – as we do players in the other positions too – and when one player puts in a top performance, it motivates you to even improve upon that the next time you play and put in a great performance yourself. So we kind of bounce off each other and it's a real positive source of motivation.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WEARING THE NO8 SHIRT THAT STEVEN GERRARD USED TO WEAR FOR THE CLUB?

When I arrived, Steven Gerrard was here and when I first came to the club he took me to one side and spoke to me. He wished me all the best and told me that I was going to be a success here. Obviously he's a total legend at this club and it's an important shirt to be wearing, an important number.

I've not found it plain sailing since I arrived here because of



MO LOVES HIS FOOTBALL. EVERYTHING HE'S ACHIEVED IS VERY WELL-DESERVED. HE'S VERY GROUNDED AND A FANTASTIC GUY, AND HOPEFULLY THERE IS MORE TO COME FROM HIM

injuries but I've continued fighting. I feel like I'm on a journey as a footballer. I'm continuing this journey and I'm hoping that I can do well for Liverpool. I'd love for my name to go down in history as well at the club.

YOU TRAIN WITH MO SALAH EVERY DAY AND PEOPLE SAY HE'S THE BEST IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

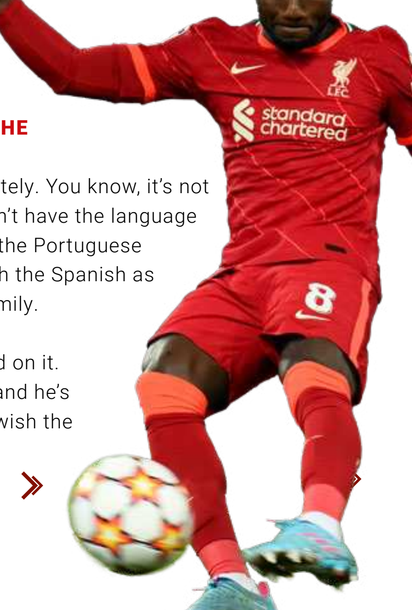
I think the same! He's fantastic. He loves his football. After training he'll still be out there working hard and doing his own stuff separately. Everything that he's achieved and all the accolades he's getting is all very well-deserved for the efforts he's putting in and the abilities he's got.

He's very grounded as well and, as we say in French, he's got his head on his shoulders. So yes, he's a fantastic guy and hopefully there is more to come from him.

WHAT ABOUT THE IMPACT LUIS DIAZ HAS MADE TO THE TEAM – HE'S COME IN AND REALLY HIT THE GROUND RUNNING…

Yes, he has started well, definitely. You know, it's not easy for him because he doesn't have the language but the South American guys, the Portuguese speakers, have helped him with the Spanish as well so he feels part of this family.

We are a family here in this dressing-room off the field and on it. He's giving everything he can and he's had a great impact. So we all wish the very best for him and that he continues to do so well.



SADIO IS MY BIG BROTHER, MY OLDER BROTHER! HE'S SOMEONE WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME AND HE HAS ALWAYS HELPED ME, WITH THE LANGUAGE AND IN LOTS OF OTHER WAYS TOO. WE ALWAYS FIND A WAY, WE ALWAYS FIND A SOLUTION TOGETHER. HE'S A TOP GUY





YOU TALK ABOUT A FAMILY FEEL TO THE CLUB AND YOU ARE ALSO GREAT MATES WITH SADIO MANE?

I've known him well since our time at RB Salzburg and he's a brother. Because he's a little bit older than me, he is my big brother, my older brother!

He's someone who has always been there for me and he has always helped me if there's anything that's needed sorting out. He's helped me with the language and in other ways too. We always find a way, we always find a solution. He's a top guy.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN YOUR CAREER?

The best piece of advice I ever had was from my dad who said to me that if I never win the Ballon d'Or for Africa, then I've never made it as a player!

HOW HAPPY WERE YOU AFTER THE CARABAO CUP VICTORY?

I felt like anyone else would – overjoyed at winning an important match, especially a final like that. It was a great achievement for us and an exciting game. We were pleased to win the first trophy of the season as that's really important. We were really motivated by that as well and it's a thing which is going to serve to motivate us even more for what's to come.

Now it's all about continuing to dream. That game is over and it's finished now. It's in the past and we've got to concentrate on the other trophies that are up for grabs.

There is still a lot to do this season and lots of things we can achieve and trophies to be won, lots of games to play. That's what we will be doing between now and the end of the season: concentrating hard and aiming to go as far as we can.

HOW DIFFICULT WAS IT FOR YOU ON THE DAY – GETTING A LATE CALL-UP TO THE TEAM BECAUSE THIAGO WAS INJURED?

In football, as players we are always ready. We are ready for any eventuality. What's more, I'd warmed-up with everyone at the start as normal, so you're always ready and in your head you're prepared, even if you think you might not feature. You've got to think that you might feature at any given moment so I was ready to take my place when required.

Klopp spoke to me and I was surprised. Obviously I felt bad for Thiago. He went out of the dressing-room for a second and that's when Klopp told me. I was surprised as I say, but we need to be ready. I felt really happy obviously as I wanted to play – it was a final but obviously part of me was sad for Thiago.
That also motivated me because we wanted to do it – not just me, but the whole squad – for Thiago to help him get over his disappointment at missing out.


L.F.C.
standard
chartered
L.F.C.



THE MAIN THING IS TO JUST KEEP OURSELVES FOCUSED ON EACH GAME. WE'LL SEE HOW IT ALL TURNS OUT AT THE END OF THE SEASON. YOU KNOW, THINGS CAN CHANGE ALL THE TIME

DID YOU HAVE TO HOLD BACK ON THE CELEBRATIONS BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY OTHER IMPORTANT GAMES COMING UP?

Yes, absolutely. We're still hungry for more so it was a measured celebration. We've got a lot ahead of us so I think the time to enjoy it all is hopefully at the end of the season when we can look back and really celebrate in good style everything that hopefully we will have achieved by then.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE TITLE RACE IS BACK ON TOO WITH LIVERPOOL HAVING NARROWED THE GAP ON MANCHESTER CITY AT THE TOP TO A SINGLE POINT BY THE START OF APRIL…

The main thing is to just keep ourselves focused on each game. We'll see how it all turns out at the end of the season. You know, things can change all the time. They're ahead of the moment. We might get back in front, who knows? It's just about concentrating on every game and getting as many points as we can and we'll see at the end.

NO ONE HAS WON EVERYTHING IN ENGLISH FOOTBALL: CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, PREMIER LEAGUE AND THE TWO DOMESTIC CUPS. COULD LIVERPOOL DO IT THIS SEASON?

We'll see at the end of the season – that's when you balance the books and see where we've got to. But yes, it would be fantastic to make history.

We always want to be creating our own history. Obviously we want to remain modest and not get too ahead of ourselves or have too big an opinion of ourselves. But it wouldn't be such a miracle if you think about it.

It's something that with hard work, determination and keeping this kind of winning mentality and this run of results that we have been having…it wouldn't be something that's beyond belief.

THINKING BACK TO TWELVE MONTHS AGO, WHAT WAS IT LIKE PLAYING WITHOUT FANS IN THE STADIUMS?

It was terrible. If you asked any player, I don't think there would be one who would say that it was pleasurable playing without any fans.

Above all when we're at home at Anfield I feel they are a source of great strength for us, they drive us forward and push

us on when we need them so it was terrible not having them with us. Playing without fans is difficult.

Obviously, under the circumstances we all knew why that was happening and we understood, but it was not enjoyable.

SO HOW DID IT FEEL WHEN YOU WALKED OUT AGAIN WITH FANS IN THE STADIUM?

It was a really emotional occasion. It was almost like you were starting out in your career again and you were playing in front of a big crowd for the first time. It was emotional and it was a fantastic moment.

DID YOU FEEL AN EXTRA ENERGY FROM THE FANS BECAUSE THEY WERE SO EXCITED TO BE BACK IN THE STADIUM?

Yes, definitely. I've sensed more motivation from the fans and maybe we do get that little bit more energy as players from them because it's not just that we're trying to win for ourselves but we're trying to win for them as well. I certainly noticed that there was even more energy in the stands as well.




Liverpool FC Legends V Barca Legends
26th March 2022
Anfield Stadium
L.F.C.
standard
chartered
Rakuten



VLAD ALL OVER

Legends midfielder Vladimir Smicer was part of the 2000/01 treble team and knows what it takes to win multiple trophies in one season

Interview: Chris McLoughlin

Had somebody told you in the mid-1990s that a 48-year-old hotel co-owner from Prague would play for Liverpool against Barcelona in front of 54,000 fans at Anfield in the year 2022 you'd have questioned their sanity. Or at least enquired if they've got a Delorean and know a kid called Marty McFly.

Yet on a sunny Saturday afternoon in March 2022 that is precisely what happened. Vladimir Smicer, the 48-year-old co-owner of the iconic Dancing Hotel in Prague, pulled on the red shirt and played for 45 minutes against Barcelona. Okay, so it was an Anfield legends game rather than a big Champions League night, but Smicer was playing for Liverpool again in front of a full house.

What a feeling it must have been, but sometimes it does no harm to remember how you got to where you are in the first place.

A Ligue 1 winner with Lens in 1997/98, the Czech international attacking midfielder signed for Liverpool in May 1999. The deal happened to be concluded on his 26th birthday and he was seen as a key creative addition to a squad that manager Gerard Houllier was revitalising as he shaped his Anfield revolution.

Over the next five years Smicer would score 19 goals and provide 31 assists in 189 appearances for the Reds. He was part of Houllier's 2000/01 treble-winners – his 17 goal contributions (seven goals, 10 assists) the best of his Liverpool career – and a shock Champions League final goalscorer in 2005 against AC Milan.

Not expecting to even be part of Rafael Benitez's squad in Istanbul following an injury-disrupted season, Smicer came on for the injured Harry Kewell, scored from the unlikely position of right wing-back during an even more unlikely six-minute comeback from 3-0 down, and converted what proved to be the winning penalty in the shoot-out before Jerzy Dudek saved from Andriy Shevchenko to spark wild celebrations.

That penalty was the final kick of Smicer's Liverpool career and after moving on to Bordeaux for two seasons he retired in 2009 after a couple of years back in the Czech Republic with Slavia Prague.

But now, just for the weekend, Smicer was back on Merseyside to play in the first Liverpool FC Legends match at Anfield for three years and the first since the man who brought him to the club in the first place had left us.

"It was sad news when I received the news that Gerard had passed away," he says. "Of course, without him I wouldn't be here now talking to you. He was my manager for five years and I owe him a lot.

"Unfortunately, that's life. We will all one day go there and I feel proud for what he did for Liverpool. He started the important changes that were needed for this club to move on.

"He rebuilt Melwood and he thought differently to the others before him. He played a big part in Liverpool history and he was a nice guy. He built a team that won the treble in 2001, which was an unbelievable season, and when he left we won the Champions League the next year. A big part of that team was because of him."

Smicer was one of seven Houllier signings to play in the Legends match v Barça, raising funds for the LFC Foundation. A further seven of the players were signed by Benitez while the rest were either homegrown at the Academy or brought in by Roy Evans or Sir Kenny Dalglish.

"It was big, massive to be back at Anfield after two years of COVID because twice they cancelled this game against Barcelona," says Smicer. "It was always going to be a good opportunity to see all the boys but especially to play at Anfield in front of over 50,000.

"It is something you could never imagine happening once you've finished playing. You're always jealous when you see the first-team playing in front of the full stadium. It's what you miss – always – so it was a great opportunity for us to come back again.

"The banter was good. Most of us hadn't seen each other for two years so it was great to see all the old faces again. They all looked two years older but then so do I!

"When I first started to play for Liverpool Legends I was nearly the youngest, but I looked at the squad this time and suddenly I'm nearly the oldest.

"Aldo and Rushie are not playing anymore, they're the coaches now, so I had to pass my experience on to these younger lads [laughs]. My advice was that the younger ones should run a lot and us older ones will try to pass them the ball!"





A sprightly Steven Gerrard opened the scoring from the penalty spot, but a Giovanni equaliser and Rivaldo penalty made the Catalans the first visiting club to win a Legends game at Anfield.

For Smicer it is now almost 23 years since he made his home debut for Liverpool and 26 years since he first played, and scored, on the Anfield turf for the Czech Republic at Euro 96.

"It feels like a long time since I first signed for Liverpool. Football has changed a lot, the club has changed a lot, there's a lot of new people and even a new training ground.

"We trained at it – it was the first time I'd been to the AXA Training Centre – and it was fabulous, amazing, unbelievable. If you play for the first-team now you could spend hours there. It's a really special place.

"Melwood was great but the AXA Training Centre is another level for the players, for the club and what you need to have to be at the highest level. And Liverpool really are at the highest level."

Smicer, who also works as an LFC ambassador, watches most Reds games and regards Jürgen Klopp, and the team he has built, as better than any Liverpool side he has either played in or seen before.

"I was talking a few months ago with Robbie [Fowler] and we were saying this is the best Liverpool team ever – the best in Liverpool history.

"This team has already won the Premier League, they've won the European Cup and they're getting better. They seem like they have no limits. They're hungry for more and they bring joy to watching their games.

"It makes us proud to watch them and say, 'I played for Liverpool – I played for this Liverpool' and they are bringing more trophies to Anfield.

"Watching them win the Carabao Cup made me smile. It made me proud to see my ex-team performing well and it is clear that most of us ex-players still support Liverpool.

"All of us who played here, it was the highest level we achieved. Liverpool is one of the few clubs in the world who can say they are one of the top clubs. They can say to players, 'Can you get to this level? Can you play in the Premier League and the Champions League for this club?'

"It was a pleasure and an honour to have played here and I am so proud to still be involved with Liverpool. I have to say thank-you to the people who still treat us so fantastically well and give us the opportunity to have this Legends weekend. Just having the opportunity to be back in the changing-rooms, to pull the kit on again...we felt like we were back in our playing days. We trained at the AXA and we played at Anfield. It was great."

With the Carabao Cup already in the bag, Liverpool are in the mix to win three other major honours. Excluding the bonus competitions of UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup, which are activated by European success, only two Liverpool sides have won trebles in the past: Joe Fagan's 1983/84 team and Houllier's class of 2000/01. Which









"I WAS TALKING WITH ROBBIE FOWLER AND WE WERE SAYING THIS CURRENT LIVERPOOL TEAM IS THE BEST EVER – THEY SEEM LIKE THEY HAVE NO LIMITS"

makes Smicer well-placed to assess what is required to win multiple trophies in the same season.

"We went game-to-game in 2001. We set a target to be in each competition for as long as we can. We didn't think too far ahead. It was: There's the next game, let's win that.

"You know at Liverpool the fans expect you to win every game. That's how it is, but the lads can be calm because they've already won the Carabao Cup. I know it is the smaller competition of the four, but I also know [from 2001] that winning it can give you confidence. You know you've already achieved something so there is not the same pressure and it gives you motivation to achieve more.

"Now the lads will be thinking they have the chance to get to other finals and also to win the league. The squad is nearly all fully-fit and it seems that the players are in-form, they're playing really well."

During Smicer's early seasons at Anfield, squad-rotation was a whole new ball-game. In 1995/96, for example, a hardcore of eleven players – James, McAteer, Jones, Scales, Wright, Babb, Thomas, Barnes, McManaman, Collymore and Fowler – played in 27-38 of Liverpool's Premier League games. Another four – Redknapp, Harkness, Rush and Ruddock – were the only others to make more than four appearances.



However, when Houllier's Reds won the treble five years later, 14 players appeared in 26-38 Premier League games and 28 were used in all competitions in total.

Perhaps that 2000/01 campaign, more than any other, made people realise that to be successful on several fronts in the modern era you need a top-class squad, not just a starting XI. Smicer feels Liverpool's

fantastic 2021/22 season is underpinned by the strength-in-depth that Klopp has assembled in two key areas.

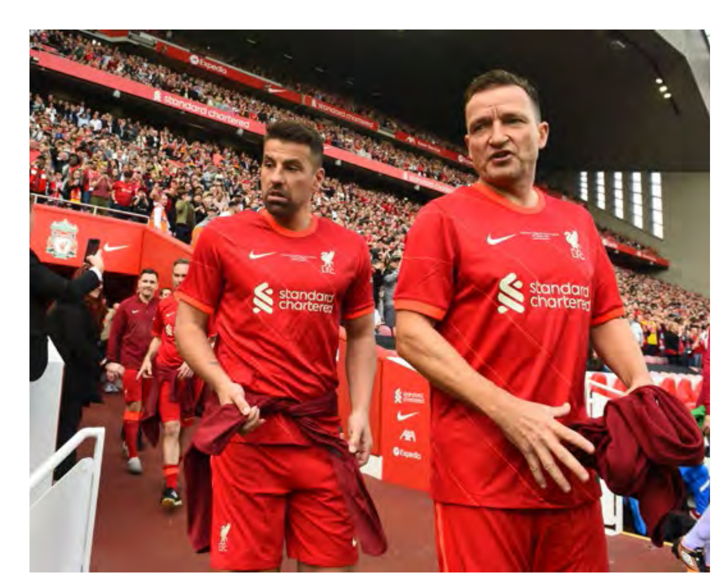
"There is confidence in the team and the boss can change it, including the players upfront now. Sometimes we said in the past that if Salah, Mane or Firmino were tired he still has to play them, but now he has a lot of choices.

"At the back Konate was a great signing – I really like him – but Matip is having an unbelievable season. I thought it was going to be difficult for him to play because Konate is really good, but Matip is having maybe the best season of anyone at Liverpool.

"This is why managers like having two players for each place. If you know someone behind you is good, you need to push yourself and play well to stay in the team, so you raise your game.

"We had a good squad in 2001 and we needed to have a good squad to win three trophies. We knew that if we weren't playing well or we weren't concentrating enough then other players would play and it may be some time to get another chance.

"I think this is happening now and that the players who are not





playing regularly are ready. They are prepared to wait for their chances and if it only comes in the last 20 or 30 minutes they are ready to take it.

"There are no players moaning that they don't play. It's nice to see this type of atmosphere at Liverpool. I'm not from here, I live in Prague, but even from Prague I can feel this mood, this vibe around the team."

The question is, what happens next? Can Liverpool build more momentum and see off all-comers to win an unprecedented quadruple? Will the hectic fixture-list and quality of rivals see a stumble or two along the way?

With so many games to play the landscape can change very quickly, but at the time of speaking to Vladi – he's Czech, he's great, he's Paddy Berger's mate – the gap to Manchester City in the Premier League was just one point with a trip to the Etihad, an FA Cup semi-final and Champions League quarter-final to come. Can the Reds do it?

"With City losing some points we are coming back strong and we go out of the international break only one point behind," says Smicer, slipping back into calling Liverpool 'we' like he really is back in the squad.

"We have put a lot of pressure on City and we will see what happens, but it is a really exciting time.

"I know it is a difficult calendar for Liverpool and I remember in 2001 that we played 63 games and a lot of players played international games too. It was a lot – a really tough season – but we won the treble and when you are winning you don't feel the fatigue. You just want to keep going, and when you get closer to the target it motivates you more and more.

"Practically, it's about playing a game, resting – playing a game, resting. It's not easy, but then when I see all the facilities the players have got at the AXA Training Centre they are well looked-after! They have the best possible conditions to go right to the end of the season and achieve something special.

"People keep asking me, 'How many trophies are they going to win?' I tell them, 'I don't know, nobody knows, but they will give it their best shot'. At the end they might have two, three or four trophies. I feel sure that they will win at least one more, but I don't know which one..."


L.F.C.
AXA



THE FIRST BOY FROM BRAZIL

Interview: William Hughes / Chris McLoughlin

FABIO, HOW GOOD WAS IT TO BE BACK AND PLAY FOR THE LIVERPOOL FC LEGENDS?

It was a really unbelievable opportunity to play for the club again. It was once my home for quite a while, six years, so it was a really great opportunity to be back again to see the lads and enjoy the occasion with the people and the fans.

Obviously, you never imagine that you would be able to step out again at Anfield as a footballer once you're retired, so apart from the most important thing that is helping Liverpool to raise money for such a great cause through this Foundation, it was an amazing opportunity to do all of it again.

DOES COMING BACK TO LIVERPOOL FEEL LIKE COMING HOME?

Yes, I can say that even though I have been away and I haven't come back here very often. I think the last time I was at Anfield was for the second home game of the season against Arsenal in 2019, but I follow Liverpool a lot from home. They show a lot of the games in Brazil so I feel that I am still close to the club and a part of it, which is really nice.

The Premier League is the most-watched competition in Brazil and when I was here I didn't see that, but once I went back I saw that the fans support their team in Brazil, but also have a favourite in the Premier League and one of those clubs is Liverpool.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE PLAYED AT ANFIELD SINCE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIN STAND SO THE STADIUM LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW...

Yes, when I was here for the Arsenal game I saw the new stand and I see that they are doing another part now with the Anfield Road end so it has become even bigger than what the club once was in my time. It's really amazing to see what they have been conquering during these years and it's really, really impressive.

WE MUST ASK YOU ABOUT THE BRAZILIAN LADS WITH ALISSON, FABINHO AND BOBBY FIRMINO ALL HAVING ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS LFC LEGENDS THEMSELVES...

Yes, it's been amazing to see that because I was the first Brazilian to play for Liverpool. I feel like I opened the door for these players and they are achieving important things for the club. When I watch the games now and I see those Brazilians being part of it and doing really well, I feel like I have contributed to it.

It's really nice to see that the club since then have been bringing Brazilian players in and they are responding on the pitch. Hopefully that can continue for a while as well and the club has also brought in another young goalkeeper from Brazil in Marcelo Pitaluga. Hopefully, Alisson still has a lot of years to go, but Marcelo was brought in from Fluminense which is really nice to see and also Taffarel is now on the coaching staff too, so it's amazing to see how the Brazilians are fitting in at the club.

HAS ANDY ROBERTSON BECOME ONE OF THE BEST LEFT-BACKS IN WORLD FOOTBALL DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS?

I have to agree with that. He has to be top of the list because his numbers speak for themselves and what he's been doing has been incredible.

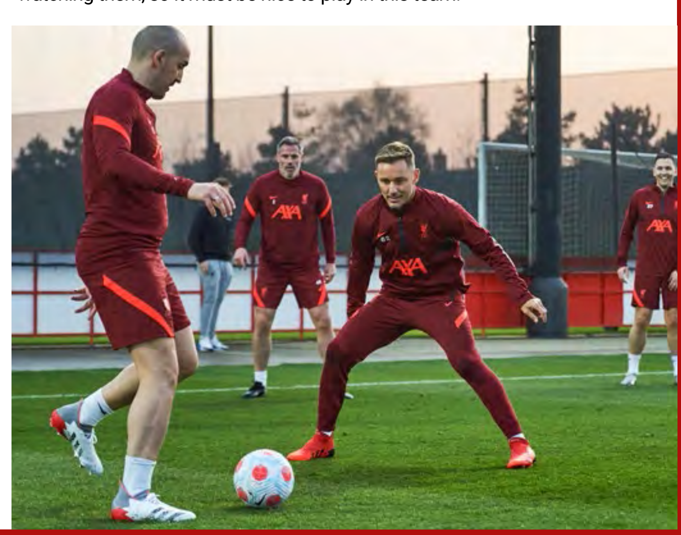
I would say that both he and Trent Alexander-Arnold were born to be full-back players because they complete most of the roles that the position needs: they can defend, they can attack, they assist, they score goals, they are aggressive, so they participate a lot in the team's game.

It's amazing to see how they have been doing and even helping the full-back position to evolve. They have been pretty much coming up with the same numbers every season since they started to play together which is amazing.

I always say that for me, Andy's more on the physical side of it and Trent with his technical ability. I would say that is the main difference between them because in terms of the rest of their attributes, if you are talking numbers and how they participate, it is pretty much the same.

WOULD PLAYING AT FULL-BACK IN THIS LIVERPOOL TEAM HAVE SUITED YOU?

I think so. I would love to be part of this team because it is a very aggressive team that likes to play good football. It is amazing only watching them, so it must be nice to play in this team.



THERE WAS A RE-RUN OF LIVERPOOL'S 4-1 WIN AT MANCHESTER UNITED IN 2009, IN WHICH YOU SCORED A FREE-KICK, ON TV RECENTLY. NOW THE FREE-KICK TAKER IS TRENT – IS THERE A REASON WHY FULL-BACKS ARE GOOD AT SET-PIECES?
I think it's because full-backs spend a lot of time working on their crossing. This is true of my time back in Brazil and it also comes down to a particular part of your technique. We were born with that ability and it helps in the position to be able to cross and make assists.

Then you end up participating in taking free-kicks [in training] and it is all about practising a lot to improve it so then you get the opportunity to do it in the games. Alexander-Arnold has been doing this really well.

WHICH WAS YOUR FAVOURITE FREE-KICK - THE ONE AT UNITED OR THE ONE AT CHELSEA WHEN YOU BEAT PETR CECH AT HIS NEAR-POST?
The Man United one is my favourite. The one against Chelsea was a tricky one and came after I got advice from the goalkeepers coach at the time [Xavi Valero]. It was a risky one to try because it could go wrong, but luckily it didn't.

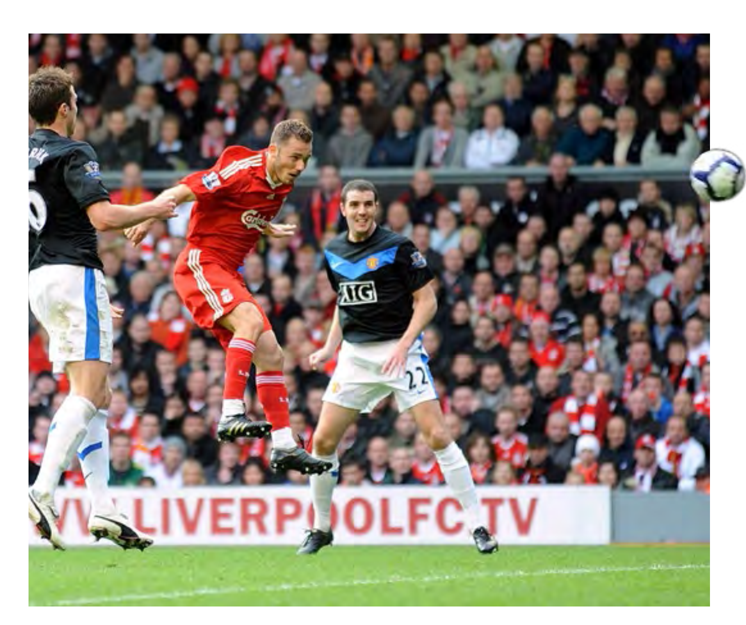
The Man United one is the proper one. It went over the wall and the keeper [Edwin van der Sar] didn't move, so that was a nice one. I think that season, 2008/09, when I could play most of the games, was my best because I could improve my level and help the team. Unfortunately it wasn't like that in the other seasons here because of injury problems and things I had to fight against, but that season was one I really enjoyed.

THE TEAM HAS BEEN GOING FOR FOUR TROPHIES WHICH ISN'T BAD GOING INTO APRIL...
Yes and it's not only this season, they have been doing really well for three or four seasons now. It was really nice that they took the pressure off winning the Premier League after such a long time by winning it a couple of years ago. So they conquered that and also won another Champions League [the year before].

Now they are in the last stages of the Champions League again and they have already conquered one trophy this season. So it's a team you believe can achieve that – the four trophies.

Although it's really tough to do it, they have players that are improving a lot and they have added to that with Luis Diaz coming in. So they are doing really well not only on the pitch but also the staff involved in the transfer market. It is a club that is at such a top level right now.

YOU MENTION LUIS DIAZ. HE IS ANOTHER SOUTH AMERICAN WHO HAS COME IN AND MADE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN JANUARY...
I had watched him play for Porto in a few games and then when I saw that Liverpool had signed him I thought that he has Liverpool's identity. He looks like a good fit and he likes to participate a lot in the play. He's aggressive and his one-v-ones are really good. So he is kind of a player made to be part of this team and the way that Klopp likes them to play.





YOU MENTIONED WINNING THE PREMIER LEAGUE IN 2020 BUT THAT WAS BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS – IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE SPECIAL TO DO IT IN FRONT OF A PACKED ANFIELD...
Yes, thankfully there is a big improvement in the support in the stadiums again now and we know how Liverpool fans can make the difference so that the team can gain the results as well. So having that support in the stadium now can help the team continue to do what they are doing and it is a big plus.

YOU'VE PLAYED IN LIVERPOOL SIDES COMPETING FOR MORE THAN ONE TROPHY IN THE SAME SEASON – DO YOU NEED A PARTICULAR STATE OF MIND AT THIS STAGE OF THE SEASON?
That is part of it, yes, and we can see that since the arrival of Klopp the team has had that mentality to keep on going. Every year they are very consistent in what they do, especially the mentality side of it.

Like I said before, winning the Premier League before has taken the pressure off them so now it is about continuing to do what they are accustomed to doing.

YOU LOOK IN GOOD SHAPE – YOU HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP YOURSELF FIT SINCE YOU RETIRED?
I like training and during my career I learned a lot that I have to look after myself. And since I stopped, I continue to train. I don't feel well if I am lazy or doing nothing, so that helps me to continue to prepare the body to enjoy the game that I love to play. So although the exterior looks much better than the inside, we try to keep ourselves well!

FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE RETIRING FROM PLAYING?
I run an agents company in Brazil. We especially look after young players, although we have a few at professional level, and try to prepare them to complete their dream: to become professional footballers. It would be a dream-come-true to get one of them to a club like Liverpool, but we know that the level here is really high and they have to be really well-prepared to one day dream of wearing this heavy shirt.

THE LEGENDS LOOK SET TO PLAY AGAINST MANCHESTER UNITED AT OLD TRAFFORD IN MAY – HOPING TO BE INVOLVED AGAIN?
I didn't know about that but hopefully I have the opportunity to play. I enjoyed playing at Anfield against Barcelona. Like I said, I wouldn't believe this could have happened now that I am a retired footballer so it is really impressive that it has and hopefully I will have the opportunity for the next one.

DON'T YOU KNOW? PUMP IT UP THE REDS ARE GOING UP!



That's been the soundtrack to Liverpool FC Women's promotion-clinching season – and players and fans have been loving it

Liverpool FC are back among the elite of women's football after clinching promotion with two games to spare. The Reds put the seal on a superb season with a 4-2 win over Bristol City on the first Sunday in April.

The Robins went into the game as the only team who could prevent Matt Beard's side claiming the FA Women's Championship title but it was always going to be a tall order.

The Gloucestershire club needed to win all four of their remaining games and hope the Reds lost their last three – an unlikely outcome given Liverpool had been defeated only once in league action all season. That came on the opening day of the campaign when a second-half penalty saw London City Lionesses win 1-0 at Prenton Park.

The Reds' response was astonishing: going undefeated in their next 19 matches – a new league record – and winning 15 of them to regain their place in the Barclays FA Women's Super League.

They say things happen in threes and that was certainly the case for Beard, who returned for a second stint as Liverpool FC Women manager last summer.

During his first spell at the helm, he led the side to back-to-back top-flight titles in 2013 and 2014, with both championships clinched following final-day home wins over Bristol (then known as Bristol Academy).

This time around, fate decreed that his side could not be caught if they avoided defeat in the West Country and they produced a winning display in front of a crowd of 5,752, a new record attendance for a match played in the second tier of English women's football.

"Maybe it was written in the stars!" he told Liverpool FC magazine afterwards. "It's just one of those strange things really. We're obviously delighted and we'll celebrate tonight and let it sink in.

"It was a bit of a funny game but we got the job done and that was the main thing. Twelve of the girls went straight off on international duty after the game so the party was on the Ellisons bus back home! I'm sure we'll celebrate it later on and it was good that we got it done before the break because otherwise that little bit of doubt can set in, but I thought we were worthy winners on the day."

Beard became the first manager to win the FA Women's Championship and FA Women's Super League but was typically quick to deflect praise onto others.

"It's not really about me – it's about all the staff and all the players. They're the ones who have had a massive input into what we've done. It was important that we got promoted and we've worked so hard to get where we are."

Club main sponsor Standard Chartered put on two buses to allow LFCW fans to travel to Ashton Gate from Anfield free-of-charge and among the support were a couple of members of Indie band The Ragamuffins who provided plenty of in-coach entertainment! The strong travelling contingent revelled in the post-match celebrations.

"It will be great to lift the trophy at the Sheffield United game [on Sunday 24 April], especially at home," added Matt. "It will be great to celebrate with the fans because, as I say regularly, they've been brilliant for us this season and so I'm also delighted for them."

Liverpool, playing in their stone-and-teal away kit, settled quickly in the April sunshine and were on the front-foot from the moment striker Katie Stengel got things underway at 3.02pm.

Leading scorer Leanne Kiernan sounded an early warning when one of left-back Megan Campbell's trademark long throws caused confusion in the Robins defence and the attacker ran on to a loose ball and saw her header clip the crossbar.

Five minutes later the Reds were ahead. Campbell's long throw-in was again the source and when centre-back Jasmine Matthews got a touch to the far-post, skipper Niamh Fahey slotted home from close-range.

"A captain's goal? I don't know about that!" said Fahey afterwards. "Our set-pieces are always a real weapon, especially Megan's throw-ins, so once Jas got a touch, I thought: here we go!'

Liverpool's lead lasted only a minute, however, with a cross-cum-shot from on-loan Chelsea forward Aggie Beever-Jones on the left flank looping over keeper Rachael Laws and dropping in at the far-post.

Words: William Hughes



"Your emotions are always high after you've scored and I don't think we managed those couple of minutes very well," admitted Fahey. "Thankfully we got back on track in the game and finished very strong. Over the course of the game we were the dominant team and so I think we deserved our win."

The visitors' advantage was restored through Matthews six minutes before the interval when another Campbell set-play – this time from her free-kick – wasn't dealt with and the ball broke for the no6 to fire home against her former club.

Liverpool gave themselves a two-goal cushion on the hour-mark. Another Campbell long throw from the left saw vice-captain Rachel Furness steer a header into the path of Stengel, whose side-footed volley made it 3-1.

It was the American's seventh goal for the club since her January arrival – quite an impact.

The Reds seemed to have one hand on the trophy but when they failed to clear their lines following a cross from the right by winger Ffion Morgan, the Championship's top scorer, Abi Harrison, was on hand to produce a clever finish and give the home side hope with just over 20 minutes left to play.

But Liverpool secured victory – and promotion – with ten minutes remaining when the Scouser in their team, midfielder Bo Kearns, found the net for the fourth.

Stengel did the spadework with a clever run to the left byline after powering past centre-back Brooke Aspin and her cut-back eventually fell to Kearns, on as a substitute for Ceri Holland, and she gleefully swept the ball home.

"It's an amazing feeling and also a bit of a relief," said Kiernan afterwards.

"Now we can go into the international break and kind of switch off for a second and then hopefully come back to a massive home crowd to receive the trophy at Prenton Park.

"It's a really incredible feeling especially with all our home fans travelling, it was really, really nice. We came here with a mission to get promoted and we've done it so we're really happy and relieved and we'll be ready for the WSL."

Wales international Holland added: "The end to the game was one of the longest ten minutes of my life! I don't know about everyone else but honestly when the fourth official put five minutes up on the board, I couldn't believe it!

"I suppose it was nice to come to Bristol and win it here. To be fair to them, they've made it a really good race and they made us a bit nervous for a little, but it was an amazing day all round.

"My whole family were here so it was amazing to see my mum and dad at the end and give them a hug and see how proud they were.

"You can see how happy all the fans were, too, which was great."

At the final whistle the players celebrated in front of their supporters

KLOPP HAILS "WONDERFUL TEAM"

Men's manager Jürgen Klopp sent messages of congratulations to Liverpool FC Women soon after the final whistle at Ashton Gate.

He told the media the following day: "First of all, congratulations. I sent messages on the afternoon and I was following it all the time. I have been looking at their results after our games, looking at when they play and who they play.

"After the result the previous week it was clear that with the draw against Bristol they could make it and they won. So I am really happy for the girls and for Matt. It's a big thing.

"Obviously Liverpool was not famous in the last years for dealing with women's football outstandingly well. They didn't go down to the Championship for no reason but now they are back and we have to make sure that we use the situation.

"I have met a lot of the girls in the last two or three months for different reasons. For instance, we did some wonderful stuff with Meikayla [Moore] for LGBT awareness and I have also spoken to others. It's really nice. It's a wonderful team, a great coach and I'm really happy for them to get promoted."



RAISING FUNDS FOR UKRAINE

The Liverpool Women Supporters Club are running a fundraising appeal to help the people of Ukraine. Draw tickets are available via lfcwsc.co.uk with two great prizes being drawn at the last home game of the season against Sheffield United on 24 April.

Up for grabs are a terrific piece of fan art featuring defender Leighanne Robe and midfielder Carla Humphrey which has been framed and signed by the two players, as well as three Anfield Stadium tour vouchers for families of four.



YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST 1892

Gaming

FANCY A

GAME?

CHALLENGE OTHER REDS



We have launched a new eGaming platform –and you can now sign up to challenge other Reds on EA SPORTS FIFA 22 and compete for fantastic prizes.

JOIN NOW – IT'S EASY. All you need is:

A registered account with Liverpool FC

account.liverpoolfc.com

A Rival account - it's quick and easy to register

gaming.liverpoolfc.com

A PS4, PS5, Xbox Series S/X or Xbox One and an active online account (PlayStation Plus, Xbox Live) with a copy of EA SPORTS FIFA 22.

Only 64 players can compete in each tournament so register now to secure your place. Take a look at the upcoming tournaments and the prizes on offer.

REGISTER NOW: gaming.liverpoolfc.com

WALK ON

LIVERPOOL FC



while parading a 'CHAMPIONS' flag. Manager Beard was doused by an ice-bucket and a couple of bottles of water.

Supporters provided a makeshift trophy which Kearns took from the crowd and then embarked on a 'pretend' trophy lift. Record appearance-maker Ashley Hodson was given a piggyback around Ashton Gate. Players and officials donned celebratory red wigs.

While the Liverpool men's team had celebrated their Carabao Cup final success at Wembley to the tune of Dua Lipa's *One Kiss*, the soundtrack to this triumph was a take on Danzel's *Pump it Up* with players and supporters singing and dancing: "Don't you know? Pump it up. The Reds are going up!"

Beard admits it was a calculated decision to return to Liverpool last May and one that seems to be paying off. "I think I said in my first interview after I came back that sometimes it [going back to a club] works out and sometimes it doesn't.

"We're a year into a bigger project here and I'm really enjoying it. We've had some really good highs this year and we've just got to make sure that we stay grounded and, as always, keep progressing."

He says the planning for a return to the Women's Super League can now begin in earnest. "The first thing I'd say is that no-one has a divine right to be in the Super League.

"We've worked incredibly hard to get back there. We've got plans in place, not just for this year but a three and five-year plan in place that we're all working towards.

"It's a tough division. You look at Aston Villa and for two years they've struggled a little bit after going up. Leicester went up last season and have struggled, too, so it's not an easy division to go back into.

"Yes, there will be changes in the summer, and our aim and ambition will be to be sensible in trying to consolidate ourselves. We need to be competitive – which I think we will be – and I think we've proved that in some of the games that we've played against FA WSL opposition in the cup competitions this year.

"Our squad is a great group and I'm confident that we can stay in the division, but we've just got to take it a step at a time and then we can hopefully progress year on year."



FA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE (AS AT 03.04.22 – TOP TEAM ONLY IS PROMOTED)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	**20**	**15**	**4**	**1**	**42**	**8**	**34**	**49**
Bristol City	19	11	2	6	39	22	17	35
Crystal Palace	20	10	3	7	31	36	-5	33
Sheffield United	20	9	5	6	31	23	8	32
London City Lionesses	19	10	2	7	28	20	8	32
Durham	20	9	4	7	26	26	0	31
Charlton Athletic	20	8	4	8	22	17	5	28
Lewes	19	8	2	9	21	21	0	26
Sunderland	20	6	5	9	21	27	-6	23
Blackburn Rovers	20	5	2	13	16	35	-19	17
Watford	20	2	5	13	17	43	-26	11
Coventry United	19	3	6	10	15	31	-16	5

THE PATH TO PROMOTION

THE RECORD 19-GAME UNBEATEN RUN THAT SAW LFCW CROWNED FA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2021/22

SEPT		
4	WATFORD (A)	3-2
12	BRISTOL C (H)	0-0
26	CRYSTAL P (H)	2-1
OCT		
3	COVENTRY U (A)	2-0
9	SHEFF UTD (A)	2-0
31	LEWES (H)	2-0
NOV		
7	BLACKBURN (H)	0-0
14	DURHAM (A)	2-0
20	SUNDERLAND (A)	3-1
JAN		
9	BLACKBURN (A)	6-0
16	WATFORD (H)	1-0
23	CRYSTAL P (A)	4-0
FEB		
6	COVENTRY U (H)	3-0
13	SUNDERLAND (H)	3-0
MAR		
6	LONDON C (A)	1-1
13	CHARLTON (A)	1-0
20	CHARLTON (H)	0-0
27	DURHAM (H)	3-0
APR		
3	BRISTOL C (A)	4-2

WHAT OCCURRED MAR

"WE'RE IN A ONE MISSION MOOD"

Words: Chris McLoughlin

"The fun part about your job is that you count the points before we play the games, but we have to play them still," said Jürgen Klopp as journalists pressed him on Liverpool's quadruple hopes ahead of the FA Cup fifth-round tie at home to Norwich.

"The quadruple, this wonderful story. No team yet in the history of British football ever won the quadruple? Right? That's because it's really difficult.

"Okay, the only team that could win the quadruple is us because we won the first competition. But even City, with all the quality they have in the last few years, couldn't win the quadruple. That says pretty much everything because there are so many teams."

The press pack were looking for a line from Jürgen to get carried away with, but they didn't get much joy. Liverpool didn't win the Carabao Cup because our manager started thinking about such things in September. It's boring, it's a cliche, it is what it is: Klopp and his team take things one game at a time. So if it is to be the most extraordinary season in our history they'll be lifting one trophy at a time too.

Just the fact that it still could be the most extraordinary season in our history is enough at this stage. Never before, even when Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan were outdoing Buckingham Palace for silverware in the 1980s, have the Reds gone into March with a realistic chance of winning the lot. Which is both exciting and expensive – it's not cheap being a 'journey hunter' when following a team this good!

So March began with Norwich at home in the FA Cup, the 37th meeting of the two sides this season. At least it felt like it, coming less than a fortnight after the Anfield league meeting.

Klopp rang the changes – only Jordan Henderson survived from the Carabao Cup final starting XI – and sadly for Ozan Kabak he was ruled out of actually playing in front of an Anfield crowd through injury. Not only did Norwich's Turkish international play his part while on loan at Anfield last season, he also had a boss song to the Tetris theme tune – but it was only ever sung in the socially-distanced watering-holes with the Anfield turnstiles closed.

The law of averages suggested Norwich might get something as only three times previously had Liverpool defeated the same side four times in the same campaign (all between 1985 and 1987, weirdly), but the law of averages was wrong.

Divock Origi teed up Takumi Minamino to open the scoring and the Japanese international smashed home another before half-time. Lukas Rupp got a goal back in a second half so forgettable that, er, but anyway the Reds were through to the quarter-final – for the first time under Klopp – where Nottingham Forest or Huddersfield Town would be visited.

Meanwhile, ex-Red Rigobert Song was named as the new manager of Cameroon and it was confirmed that the hamstring injury that Thiago suffered before the Carabao Cup final would also rule him out of Liverpool's Premier League clash with West Ham at Anfield.

Speaking of which, it was interesting to read in the matchday









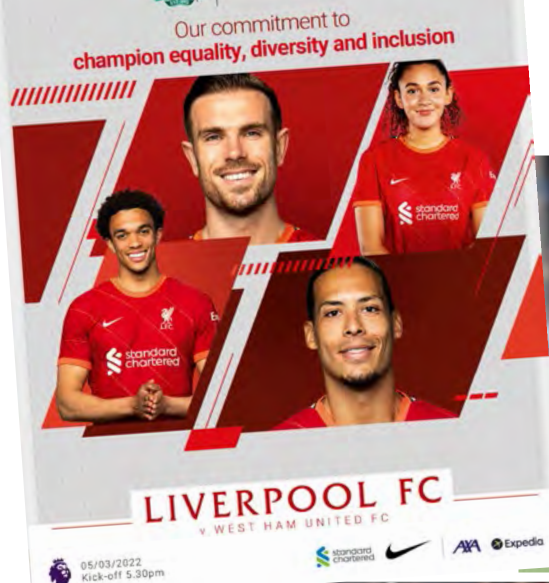
programme – dedicated to LFC's 'Red Together' campaign to fight against discrimiantion and promote inclusivity, equality and diversity – talk from Jordan Henderson about getting substituted.

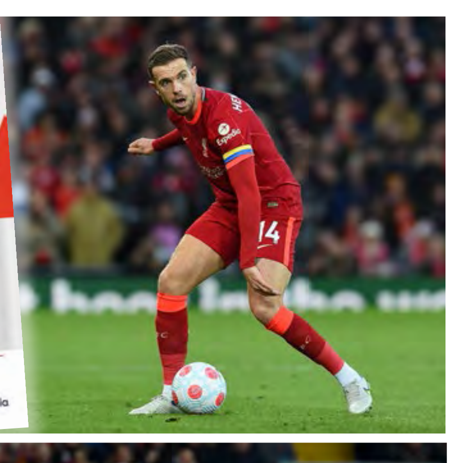
"It is a squad game now so we all have to embrace that," he wrote. "This doesn't mean any of us will be happy when we're not selected, or if we're taken off during games, because we are all competitive and we're all desperate to play. That's why it always surprises me when there's a fuss when any player shows his displeasure after being substituted. If you're a player, you want to play at all times. It's that simple.

"In that particular moment, the likelihood is that you're only going to be disappointed. I'd be worried if any of the lads were ever keen to go off but, thankfully, this is never the case.

"Whatever our personal feelings at any given moment, I can assure everyone – and I think results back this up – that they are consistently put aside for the greater good because all of us want only one thing and that is what is best for Liverpool Football Club."

Remember that next time anyone over-analyses the reaction to a substitution by Klopp, although ironically he didn't make a change until the 79th minute of an enthralling yet increasingly nervy contest against West Ham.













Before kick-off there was a pre-match show of support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine. Both captains wore blue-and-yellow armbands and both teams went at it.

Mo Salah and Michail Antonio were denied opening goals by Lukasz Fabianski and Alisson before the decisive moment came in the 27th minute. Naby Keita clipped a lovely pass to Trent Alexander-Arnold and as his cross-shot flew across goal Sadio Mane nipped in behind Craig Dawson to tap the ball home.

The flag stayed down, but it was such a close offside call that Andy Robertson started to raise his arms in celebration before covering all bases by turning it into a casual head-scratch. Over to VAR official Darren England to draw some lines and conclude that Mane was onside. One-nil to the Redmen.

It's fair to say that Pablo Fornals and John Fashanu have rather different styles of playing football – and only one of them has ever hosted *Gladiators* – but in the 39th minute they almost shared an Anfield record.

Fornals sprung Liverpool's offside trap, lobbed the ball over Alisson and was contemplating if he should celebrate becoming the first visiting player to score in three consecutive Anfield games since 'Fash the Bash' in 1993/94 by shouting the ex-Wimbledon striker's 'Awooga' catch-phrase (one for YouTube), only for Alexander-Arnold to dash back and hook the ball off the line.

When Alisson and Ibrahima Konate then blocked Fornals and Nikola Vlasic from the rebound, Anfield cheered almost as loudly as if Liverpool had scored. Even the inflatable cat in the Main Stand, directed at Kurt Zouma following a high-profile incident, started purring.

A couple of Luis Diaz efforts flew wide before Alexander-Arnold slid in to deny Manuel Lanzini, who blazed the rebound over, and Keita nicked the ball off Antonio's foot as he was about to fire goalwards to secure the kind of 1-0 victory that wins titles. Not that I'm thinking that far ahead, Jürgen.

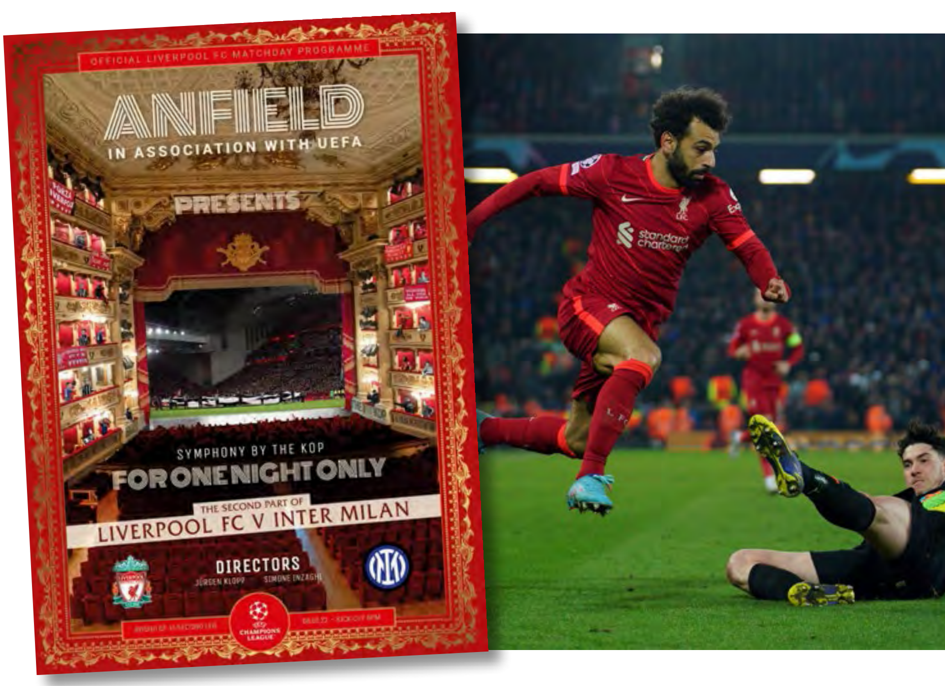
There was also a bit of history for Virgil van Dijk and Konate. Virgil surpassed Lee Sharpe's Premier League record to make it 60 top-flight matches undefeated (W52 D8) on his home ground for a single club while Ibou is yet to lose for Liverpool in 18 appearances in all competitions (W13 D5) – the longest unbeaten start to a player's Liverpool career since Ray Houghton didn't lose any of his first 23 appearances in 1987/88.

However, Konate's run of being the only Liverpool player to at least make the bench for every game this season came to an end when he was left out as a precaution when the Reds hosted Internazionale in the second leg of our last 16 Champions League tie.

Perhaps that's why the Reds lost, or maybe all the talk of winning multiple trophies made them want to recreate playing Roma in the 2000/01 treble-season when a 2-0 first leg win in Italy was followed by a 0-1 Anfield reverse.

Not that they deserved to lose on a night when the matchday programme cover of an Italian-style opera house was truly magnifico.

The Reds had 12 shots on goal, Salah hitting the post twice, but were beaten by a stunner from Lautaro Martinez on the





hour-mark. Inter looked right back in it at that stage, but the fat lady started singing when Alexis Sanchez got himself sent off for a second bookable offence – assistant-boss Massimiliano Farris following him down the tunnel for remonstrating – moments later and Liverpool saw the *Nerazzurri* off quite comfortably in the end to progress 2-1 on aggregate.

"We struggled at the start, but the most important thing is that we have qualified," said Salah afterwards. "I hit the post twice. It's okay – maybe next game I will score three!

"I don't mind so much when the team qualifies. That is the most important thing, for sure. The good thing is that it is not in the league, and we have qualified. That is great."

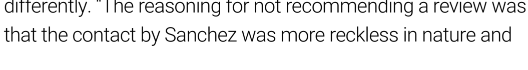
Don't you just love hearing 'the good thing is that it is not the league' from our top goalscorer? It wasn't quite Shankly tapping the Football League Division One trophy and calling it 'our bread and butter', but it was an elite Liverpool mentality nevertheless.

Speaking of winning things, Joel Matip was named as Premier League player of the month for February while Diaz received the award for Liverpool goal of the month (against Norwich in the league). If there's a gong going for bravest goal of the season then surely the Colombian wrapped that up during Liverpool's 2-0 win at Brighton.

Matip's chipped pass was perfect for Diaz to head goalwards on the edge of the box, but as he did so Brighton keeper Robert Sanchez flew out like a Seagull eyeing an ice-cream and clattered Diaz with a waist-high challenge, leaving him lying in a heap on the turf. The goal stood, but the travelling Kop's celebrations were somewhat muted while everyone held their breath to see if Luis was okay.

Thankfully he could continue after getting treatment, but how Sanchez avoided a red card, even after a VAR review, was astonishing.

"If you ever want to see serious foul play, that's it," said pundit Peter Crouch, but ex-Premier League referee Chris Foy saw it differently. "The reasoning for not recommending a review was that the contact by Sanchez was more reckless in nature and



not serious foul play," he said. "So, if [VAR official] Stuart Attwell is content that the offence was 'reckless' then he would not recommend a review."

Quite where the line between reckless and serious foul play is when a goalie takes you out waist-high is anyone's guess, but the Reds had three more points in the bag when PFA Fans player of the month Salah, who also hit the crossbar, converted from the penalty spot after Yves Bissouma blocked a Keita shot with his hand.

That Liverpool won 2-0 instead of 2-1 was down to another piece of goalkeeping brilliance from Alisson late on when he kept out a Danny Welbeck shot from point-blank range.

"It's going to be an exciting run-in hopefully," said Andy Robertson. "We need to keep winning games and hope obviously Manchester City drop points."

Manchester City drop points, you say? Hope became reality





two days later when Pep Guardiola's side drew 0-0 at Crystal Palace. Which all of a sudden meant that Liverpool's fate was in their own hands.

A gap of 14 points on 15 January was now a gap of four points on 15 March with Liverpool having a game in hand. Win that at Arsenal and the gap would be one, making the 10 April clash at the Etihad feel like the winner takes it all…even if a number of games for both sides after that one look rather tricky, as did a wet Wednesday night trip to the Emirates.

The match swung in Liverpool's favour in the space of four second half minutes. Thiago is such a good passer that he always finds a man, but unfortunately in the 50th minute he found Alexandre Lacazette with a stray backpass.

One-on-one with Alisson the Arsenal striker was held up by the Liverpool goalkeeper staying on his feet, so he pulled the ball back to Martin Odegaard to fire goalwards. Ali stretched out one of his big gloves and the ball was diverted over.

Four minutes later Thiago found Diogo Jota with a pass and after taking the ball into the box he beat Aaron Ramsdale at his near-post.

The travelling Kop went wild behind the goal and six minutes later Roberto Firmino – sent on to replace the Portuguese Fowler immediately after scoring – joined them after he flicked Robertson's low cross into the net.

Bobby got a card the same colour as his shirt for leaving the pitch and being engulfed by the front row of Liverpool's travelling contingent, but what a moment it was. The Gunners were beaten – and nilled for the fourth time this season – and if you didn't have belief coursing through your veins that night that this Premier League can be won by the Redmen you maybe never will.

"It's up to us now," said Jota, who opened the scoring for the eighth time this season. "Nine games, nine finals, I believe we can do it."

A couple of days later came the Champions League draw and they didn't even have to do it twice. Benfica, in Lisbon first, came out the plastic pots for the Reds with either Bayern Munich or Villarreal awaiting in the semi-final for the victors. With Man City, Chelsea and both the Madrid clubs on the other side of the draw it wasn't one to quibble about.

As the March international-break approached there was now an FA Cup quarter-final at Nottingham Forest to take care of and it revived a famous old rivalry that saw the two clubs win five European Cups between them from 1977 to 1981.

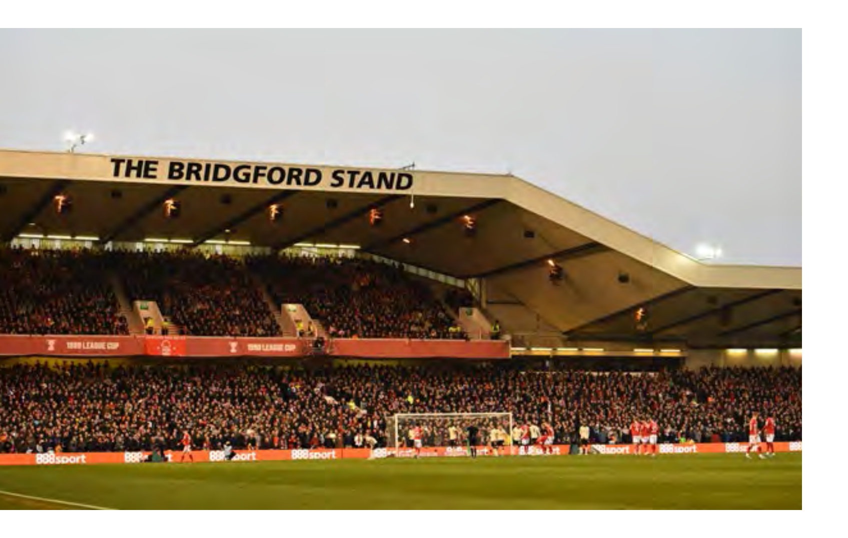
It was also the first FA Cup meeting between the two sides since 1989, when 97 Reds were unlawfully killed before the semi-final at Hillsborough.

In tribute to the 97, Forest left 97 seats empty inside the City Ground. Classy.

The atmosphere during the 90 minutes was old-school. Both sets of supporters made a noise that was arguably the loudest Liverpool have encountered domestically all season.

"Not everything that they were shouting I liked, but the noise





was absolutely outstanding," said Klopp after the Forest fans chanted some songs that belong in a bygone era, but it was a pulsating atmosphere. That the Reds dealt with it, and not having Salah, Mane, Alexander-Arnold and COVID-hit Robertson available, was again testament to the depth of his squad.

The public love a good underdog story of how a giant was nearly downed, but despite all Forest's energy and effort the post-match narrative that the Championship side almost pulled off a shock was betrayed by the reality that their only effort on target all night was a weak Ryan Yates header straight at Alisson when Liverpool were already 1-0 up.

Had Firmino not wasted a golden chance in the first half the opening goal would have come sooner, but in the end it was Jota who again sent Liverpool to Wembley with a far-post finish from a Kostas Tsimikas cross.

Robbie Fowler drew the Reds out to face City in the semi, proving that even God isn't infallible, and it meant the unspoken treble of Carabao Cup final, FA Cup final and Champions League final being Liverpool v Chelsea remained possible. Eek.

Off went the players to join up with their countries. Jota helped Portugal to qualify for the World Cup and Mane again caused more heartache for Salah's Egypt from the penalty spot as Senegal reached Qatar 2022 via their two-legged play-off. Those Senegal fans who shined laser pens into Mo's eyes before his missed penalty in the shoot-out, however, were out of order.

Over at Anfield, Liverpool Legends lost 2-1 to Barcelona Legends – the Aston Villa manager scoring for the Reds before Rivaldo got the winner (now there's a sentence you never thought you'd read) – on a feel-good afternoon that raised money for the LFC Foundation and its charities and kept Luis Garcia happy.

And so to the biggest April in living memory, if not longer. Watford. Benfica. Man City. Benfica. Man City. Man United. Everton. Maybe Bayern Munich. Newcastle. Win 'em all and May could be like nothing else you've ever lived before, but at a time like this you need calm heads so who better to analyse what's coming than a man who has won 22 major honours – including 11 league titles – with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Liverpool?

"The other day I was talking with some friends about it and I never had, in the years that I have been involved in football, I never had a month so exciting like this with such important and exciting matches every three days. So it will be amazing," Thiago told Liverpoolfc.com.

"Well, it's not the most exciting month of my career but for sure it is exciting because you are competing against the best, in the best competitions as well, but also because it reminds you that we are in finals.

"It looks like a World Cup, a European Cup, where every game is a final. With that we are in a one-mission mood and we are there."

Bring. It. On...

APR/MAY

WHAT'S ON





DAYS LIKE THESE

Back-to-back Premier League home games against North West rivals Manchester United and Everton are among the mouthwatering clashes on the horizon for the Reds.

As Jürgen Klopp's men look to continue their fight for honours on all fronts, their challenge for the league title continues when Manchester United visit Anfield on Tuesday 19 April in a rearranged fixture.

Five days later, Frank Lampard brings an Everton team across Stanley Park for the first time. The Reds will be looking to complete league doubles after handsome wins in both of the reverse fixtures earlier in the season.

Other tough Premier League assignments include a trip to the North East to take on Eddie Howe's Newcastle United on 30 April before the final full month of the league campaign kicks-off with a home game against Tottenham Hotspur on 7 May.

Other huge matches this month include a return to Wembley to play Manchester City in the semi-final of the Emirates FA Cup on Saturday 16 April, three days after the second leg of the UEFA Champions League last-eight tie with Benfica at Anfield.

Should the Reds be successful against the Lisbon giants, they will host Bayern Munich or Villarreal in the first leg of the semi in the final midweek of April before travelling to Germany or Spain a week later.

Strap yourselves in, it's going to be quite a ride!

APR/MAY

WHAT'S ON



NEVER FORGOTTEN

Friday 15 April 2022 marks the 33rd anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy. Liverpool supporters around the world will remember those fellow fans who went to a football match and never came home.

The city will come to a standstill for a minute's silence at 3.06pm.

Liverpool face Benfica at Anfield two nights before and the club will be marking the anniversary at the fixture.

Our thoughts are always with those who continue to be affected by the tragedy and the friends and families of the 97.

BIRTHDAYS

Neco Williams 21 on 13 April

Missy Bo Kearns 21 on 14 April

Rafael Benitez 62 on 16 April

Divock Origi 27 on 18 April

Taylor Hinds 23 on 25 April

Leanne Kiernan 23 on 27 April

Dominic Matteo 48 on 28 April

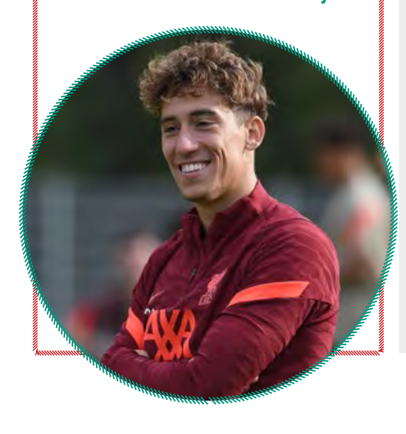
Melissa Lawley 28 on 28 April

Ashley Hodson 27 on 5 May

Graeme Souness 69 on 6 May

Yana Daniels 30 on 8 May

Kostas Tsimikas 26 on 12 May



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...



ANNIVERSARIES

6 years since that incredible Anfield night against Borussia Dortmund on 14 April 2016.

21 years since Gary McAllister's penalty at Anfield helped the Reds beat Barcelona in the UEFA Cup semi-final on 19 April 2001.

33 years since 96 fans lost their lives at Hillsborough on 15 April 1989.

34 years since that famous 5-0 win over Nottingham Forest on 13 April 1988.

58 years since a 5-0 victory against Arsenal secured the Division One title in 1964.

62 years since the great Ian Callaghan made his Liverpool FC debut on 16 April 1960.

And it's 45 years since the Reds reached their first European Cup final on 20 April 1977…

Liverpool's supporters were buoyant after a 6-1 aggregate success over FC Zurich saw the club reach the European Cup final for the first time. Thousands of supporters began plotting their routes to Rome where the team would meet Borussia Moenchengladbach in the showpiece event.

Following the epic quarter-final win over Saint Etienne, the Reds won 3-1 in the first leg in Switzerland, overcoming the disappointment of conceding a sixth-minute goal to Zurich forward Peter Risi by scoring three times.

Phil Neal quickly brought the Reds on terms and Steve Heighway put Liverpool ahead three minutes after the break before Neal gave Bob Paisley's men a two-goal cushion to take back to Anfield when he converted a penalty midway through the second half.

A fortnight later, a crowd of more than 50,000 packed into Anfield to see the Reds complete the job. Jimmy Case took centre-stage, opening the scoring on the night 12 minutes before the break before rifling in an unstoppable long-range free-kick at the Kop end with 10 minutes remaining. Kevin Keegan added a third after striker Alan Waddle had seen his header come back off the crossbar and the Reds were a significant step closer to being crowned champions of Europe.

The Kop choir were in full voice, hailing their heroes with renditions of "Italy! Italy! We're the greatest team in Europe and we're going to Italy!" along with "We're on our way to Roma, On the twenty-fifth of May, All the Kopites will be singing, Vatican bells they will be ringing, Liverpool boys they will be drinking, When we win the European Cup!"

WHAT'S IN



ADULTS HERITAGE 82 YELLOW AWAY TEE
£25



ADULTS HERITAGE 82 YELLOW AWAY TRACK JACKET
£50

SKILL SET
£40



FOOTBALL WAIST TRAINER
£15



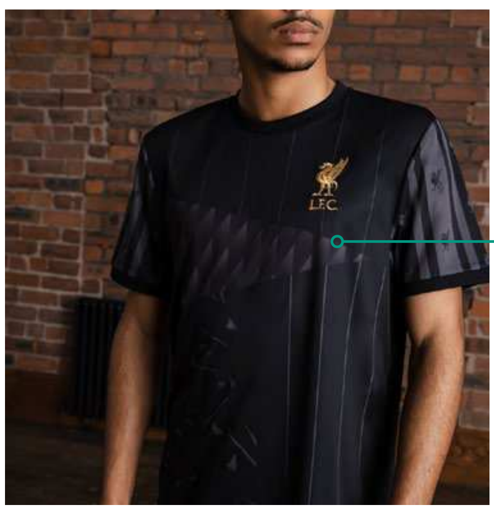
FOOTBALL SKILLS TRAIN AID
£115



6X4 GOAL
£70

STORE

A FEW FAB HIGHLIGHTS AVAILABLE FROM OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC STORES AND ONLINE



MENS SPECIAL EDITION BLACKOUT MASH UP SHIRT
£35



ADULTS HERITAGE 89 RED HOME TEE
£25



ADULTS BLACKOUT ISTANBUL WALKOUT JACKET
£50



ADULTS ISTANBUL WALKOUT JACKET
£50



ADULTS HERITAGE 89 BLACKOUT HOME TEE
£35



RETRO ADULTS 1989 HOME BLACKOUT JACKET
£50

Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in Official Club Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store
and for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter, Instagram and TikTok! Terms and conditions apply.



NEIL MELLOR

Jürgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola have different styles of management but both are top coaches in world football because they improve players and teams

Liverpool versus Manchester City may not be a traditional rivalry, but it has become a new rivalry for success. While the Reds have always been a team that challenges for silverware, City have become a real force in world football under their current owners.

Yes, we'll always have a rivalry with Manchester United and Everton for historical, geographical and many other reasons, but now Manchester City are Liverpool's biggest rivals for trophies.

Without City, Liverpool would have had more success. Without Liverpool, City would have had more success. So I think both teams have really helped to push each other on during an era where both have been miles ahead of everybody else and played entertaining brands of football.

That has created new interest around the world in the Premier League because of how good both clubs have been and how the rivalry has developed.

Jürgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola both have different styles of management. Guardiola has always managed the favourites whereas Klopp has managed the underdogs. They've gone from Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund to Manchester City v Liverpool, so there's a difference there in finances and expectation.

In terms of their styles, Pep likes possession-based football whereas Jürgen's teams play quicker football. Both have been really successful and both are top coaches in world football because they improve players and teams.

Liverpool have not spent as much as City so I think our success would be deemed better, but there's no doubt that Guardiola has transformed a football club that wanted to be the best and succeeded.

My dad, Ian Mellor, played for City in the 1970s and they were a good team but had a long time without success to show for it. He actually scored a winning goal against Liverpool at Maine Road in September 1971 to give City a 1-0 victory in what was Kevin Keegan's sixth game for the Reds.

He still follows City and gets tickets as a former player, but he also has a respect for how good Liverpool are and how the club has gone about things to compete with City.

Liverpool have won five, drawn five and lost four of the 14 games against Man City since it's been Klopp v Guardiola. Not winning in the five previous Premier League visits to the Etihad clearly needs to change, but then there have been mitigating circumstances.

The Reds lost 5-0 there after Sadio Mane was sent off early on, we lost 4-0 there after the lads had enjoyed winning the Premier League and even the 2-1 defeat that proved decisive in the 2018/19 title race could have gone the other way with just 11.7mm of the ball not over the line before John Stones cleared it and Leroy Sane's winner flying in off the post instead of coming back out.

That's how tight it has been between the two teams and whatever happens at the Etihad when the two sides meet it will be a title race all the way to the end.

The FA Cup semi-final at Wembley will be different because a neutral venue evens things out slightly and both our previous games there – the 2016 League Cup final and 2019 Community Shield – finished 1-1 and went to penalties.

We're talking about two of the best sides the Premier League has ever seen yet meetings on neutral territory have been so rare that nobody can truly know how that game is likely to go. But squad depth could be crucial as it will be the first clash between the two when five substitutions can be made.

City have previously had the strongest squad, but I think Liverpool have caught them up. Those squads will be needed not just in the FA Cup but in the remaining Premier League and Champions League games.

Rotation will be important and that's when a good squad environment and mentality becomes crucial. Look at Joe Gomez, for example, who has come in and done very well, as has Ibrahima Konate.

Klopp has also now got five top attacking players to freshen things up and while people will compare the two squads, I think – without significant injuries – the Reds have a squad that looks strong enough to cope with a manic period between now and the end of a season that could yet be the most successful in history for either Liverpool or Manchester City.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

FIXTURES 2021/22

		SCORE	TV	SCORERS
AUGUST				
Sat 14	Norwich City (A, 5.30pm)	3-0	Sky	Jota, Firmino, Salah
Sat 21	Burnley (H, 12.30pm)	2-0	BT	Jota, Mane
Sat 28	Chelsea (H, 5.30pm)	1-1	Sky	Salah (pen)
SEPTEMBER				
Sun 12	Leeds United (A, 4.30pm)	3-0	Sky	Salah, Fabinho, Mane
Wed 15	AC Milan (H, UCL Matchday One, 8pm)	3-2	BT	Tomori (og), Salah, Henderson
Sat 18	Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)	3-0		Mane, Salah, Keita
Tue 21	Norwich City (A, Carabao Cup 3, 7.45pm)	3-0	Sky	Minamino 2, Origi
Sat 25	Brentford (A, 5.30pm)	3-3	Sky	Jota, Salah, Jones
Tue 28	Porto (A, UCL Matchday Two, 8pm)	5-1	BT	Salah 2, Mane, Firmino 2
OCTOBER				
Sun 3	Manchester City (H, 4.30pm)	2-2	Sky	Mane, Salah
Sat 16	Watford (A, 12.30pm)	5-0	BT	Firmino 3, Mane, Salah
Tue 19	Atletico Madrid (A, UCL Matchday Three, 8pm)	3-2	BT	Salah 2 (1 pen), Keita
Sun 24	Manchester United (A, 4.30pm)	5-0	Sky	Keita, Jota, Salah 3
Wed 27	Preston North End (A, Carabao Cup 4, 7.45pm)	2-0	Sky	Minamino, Origi
Sat 30	Brighton & Hove Albion (H, 3pm)	2-2		Henderson, Mane
NOVEMBER				
Wed 3	Atletico Madrid (H, UCL Matchday Four, 8pm)	2-0	BT	Jota, Mane
Sun 7	West Ham United (A, 4.30pm)	2-3	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Origi
Sat 20	Arsenal (H, 5.30pm)	4-0	Sky	Mane, Jota, Salah, Minamino
Wed 24	Porto (H, UCL Matchday Five, 8pm)	2-0	BT	Thiago, Salah
Sat 27	Southampton (H, 3pm)	4-0		Jota 2, Thiago, van Dijk
DECEMBER				
Wed 1	Everton (A, 8.15pm)	4-1	AP	Henderson, Salah 2, Jota
Sat 4	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A, 3pm)	1-0		Origi
Tue 7	AC Milan (A, UCL Matchday Six, 8pm)	2-1	BT	Salah, Origi
Sat 11	Aston Villa (H, 3pm)	1-0		Salah (pen)
Thu 16	Newcastle United (H, 8pm)	3-1	BT	Jota, Salah, Alexander-Arnold
Sun 19	Tottenham Hotspur (A, 4.30pm)	2-2	Sky	Jota, Robertson
Wed 22	Leicester City (H, Carabao Cup 5, 7.45pm)	3-3*		Oxlade-Chamberlain, Jota, Minamino
Tue 28	Leicester City (A, 8pm)	0-1	AP	
JANUARY				
Sun 2	Chelsea (A, 4.30pm)	2-2	Sky	Mane, Salah
Sun 9	Shrewsbury Town (H, Emirates FA Cup 3, 2pm)	4-1		Gordon, Fabinho 2 (1 pen), Firmino
Thu 13	Arsenal (H, Carabao Cup S-F 1, 7.45pm)	0-0	Sky	
Sun 16	Brentford (H, 2pm)	3-0		Fabinho, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Minamino
Thu 20	Arsenal (A, Carabao Cup S-F 2, 7.45pm)	2-0	Sky	Jota 2
Sun 23	Crystal Palace (A, 2pm)	3-1	Sky	van Dijk, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Fabinho (pen)
FEBRUARY				
Sun 6	Cardiff City (H, Emirates FA Cup 4, 12pm)	3-1	ITV	Jota, Minamino, Elliott
Thu 10	Leicester City (H, 7.45pm)	2-0	BT	Jota 2
Sun 13	Burnley (A, 2pm)	1-0		Fabinho
Wed 16	Inter Milan (A, UCL Ro16 1, 8pm)	2-0	BT	Firmino, Salah
Sat 19	Norwich City (H, 3pm)	3-1		Mane, Salah, Diaz
Wed 23	Leeds United (H, 7.45pm)	6-0		Salah (2 pens), Mane 2, Matip, van Dijk
Sun 27	Chelsea (N, Carabao Cup Final, 4.30pm)	0-0**	Sky	
MARCH				
Wed 2	Norwich City (H, Emirates FA Cup 5, 8.15pm)	2-1	ITV	Minamino 2
Sat 5	West Ham United (H, 5.30pm)	1-0	Sky	Mane
Tue 8	Inter Milan (H, UCL Ro16 2, 8pm)	0-1	BT	
Sat 12	Brighton & Hove Albion (A, 12.30pm)	2-0	BT	Diaz, Salah (pen)
Wed 16	Arsenal (A, 8.15pm)	2-0	Sky	Jota, Firmino
Sun 20	Nottingham Forest (A, FA Cup 6, 6pm)	1-0	ITV	Jota
APRIL				
Sat 2	Watford (H, 12.30pm)	2-0	BT	Jota, Fabinho (pen)
Tue 5	Benfica (UCL Q-F 1, 8pm)	3-1	BT	Konate, Mane, Diaz
Sun 10	Manchester City (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Wed 13	Benfica (UCL Q-F 2, 8pm)		BT	
Sat 16	Manchester City (N, Emirates FA Cup S-F, 3.30pm)		BBC	
Tue 19	Manchester United (H, 8pm)		Sky	
Sun 24	Everton (H, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Tue 26/Wed 27	UCL S-F 1			
Sat 30	Newcastle United (A, 12.30pm)		BT	
MAY				
Tue 3/Wed 4	UCL S-F 2			
Sat 7	Tottenham Hotspur (H, 7.45pm)		BT	
Tue 10	Aston Villa (A, 8pm)		Sky	
Sat 14	Emirates FA Cup Final			
Sun 15	Southampton (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Sun 22	Wolverhampton Wanderers (H, 4pm)			
Sat 28	UCL Final			

All fixtures are subject to change.
*Liverpool won 5-4 on penalties (Milner, Firmino, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Keita, Jota)
**Liverpool won 11-10 on penalties (Milner, Fabinho, van Dijk, Alexander-Arnold, Salah, Jota, Origi, Robertson, Elliott, Konate, Kelleher)





NEVER FORGOTTEN 15 APRIL 1989

JOHN ALFRED ANDERSON (62)
COLIN MARK ASHCROFT (19)
JAMES GARY ASPINALL (18)
KESTER ROGER MARCUS BALL (16)
GERARD BERNARD PATRICK BARON (67)
SIMON BELL (17)
BARRY SIDNEY BENNETT (26)
DAVID JOHN BENSON (22)
DAVID WILLIAM BIRTLE (22)
TONY BLAND (22)
PAUL DAVID BRADY (21)
ANDREW MARK BROOKES (26)
CARL BROWN (18)
DAVID STEVEN BROWN (25)
HENRY THOMAS BURKE (47)
PETER ANDREW BURKETT (24)
PAUL WILLIAM CARLILE (19)
RAYMOND THOMAS CHAPMAN (50)
GARY CHRISTOPHER CHURCH (19)
JOSEPH CLARK (29)
PAUL CLARK (18)
GARY COLLINS (22)
STEPHEN PAUL COPOC (20)
TRACEY ELIZABETH COX (23)
JAMES PHILIP DELANEY (19)
ANDREW STANLEY DEVINE (55)
CHRISTOPHER BARRY DEVONSIDE (18)
CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS (29)
VINCENT MICHAEL FITZSIMMONS (34)
THOMAS STEVEN FOX (21)
JON-PAUL GILHOOLEY (10)
BARRY GLOVER (27)

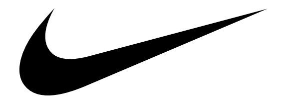
IAN THOMAS GLOVER (20)
DERRICK GEORGE GODWIN (24)
ROY HARRY HAMILTON (34)
PHILIP HAMMOND (14)
ERIC HANKIN (33)
GARY HARRISON (27)
STEPHEN FRANCIS HARRISON (31)
PETER ANDREW HARRISON (15)
DAVID HAWLEY (39)
JAMES ROBERT HENNESSY (29)
PAUL ANTHONY HEWITSON (26)
CARL DARREN HEWITT (17)
NICHOLAS MICHAEL HEWITT (16)
SARAH LOUISE HICKS (19)
VICTORIA JANE HICKS (15)
GORDON RODNEY HORN (20)
ARTHUR HORROCKS (41)
THOMAS HOWARD (39)
THOMAS ANTHONY HOWARD (14)
ERIC GEORGE HUGHES (42)
ALAN JOHNSTON (29)
CHRISTINE ANNE JONES (27)
GARY PHILIP JONES (18)
RICHARD JONES (25)
NICHOLAS PETER JOYNES (27)
ANTHONY PETER KELLY (29)
MICHAEL DAVID KELLY (38)
CARL DAVID LEWIS (18)
DAVID WILLIAM MATHER (19)
BRIAN CHRISTOPHER MATHEWS (38)
FRANCIS JOSEPH McALLISTER (27)
JOHN McBRIEN (18)

MARIAN HAZEL McCABE (21)
JOSEPH DANIEL McCARTHY (21)
PETER McDONNELL (21)
ALAN McGLONE (28)
KEITH McGRATH (17)
PAUL BRIAN MURRAY (14)
LEE NICOL (14)
STEPHEN FRANCIS O'NEILL (17)
JONATHON OWENS (18)
WILLIAM ROY PEMBERTON (23)
CARL WILLIAM RIMMER (21)
DAVID GEORGE RIMMER (38)
GRAHAM JOHN ROBERTS (24)
STEVEN JOSEPH ROBINSON (17)
HENRY CHARLES ROGERS (17)
COLIN ANDREW HUGH WILLIAM SEFTON (23)
INGER SHAH (38)
PAULA ANN SMITH (26)
ADAM EDWARD SPEARRITT (14)
PHILIP JOHN STEELE (15)
DAVID LEONARD THOMAS (23)
PATRIK JOHN THOMPSON (35)
PETER REUBEN THOMPSON (30)
STUART PAUL WILLIAM THOMPSON (17)
PETER FRANCIS TOOTLE (21)
CHRISTOPHER JAMES TRAYNOR (26)
MARTIN KEVIN TRAYNOR (16)
KEVIN TYRRELL (15)
COLIN WAFER (19)
IAN DAVID WHELAN (19)
MARTIN KENNETH WILD (29)
KEVIN DANIEL WILLIAMS (15)
GRAHAM JOHN WRIGHT (17)













WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNISE THE OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF LIVERPOOL FC











































WALK ON